# National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2004



"Sons of Erin" Painting by Don Troiani, www.historicalartprints.com

# Roulette Farmstead Antietam National Battlefield

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## **Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan**

#### **Inventory Summary**

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

#### **CLI General Information:**

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

#### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

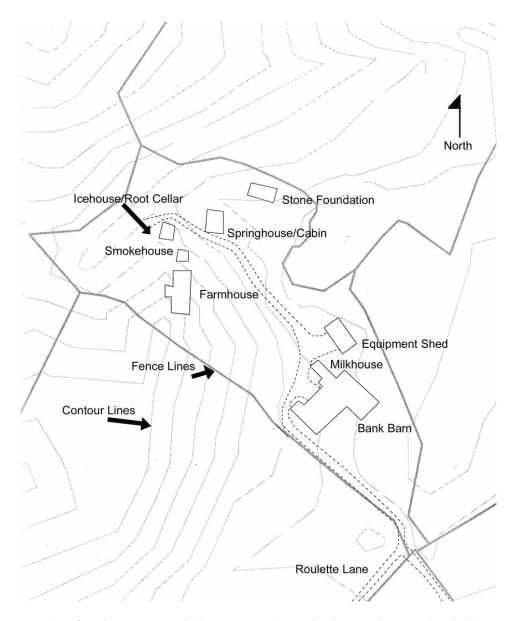
treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

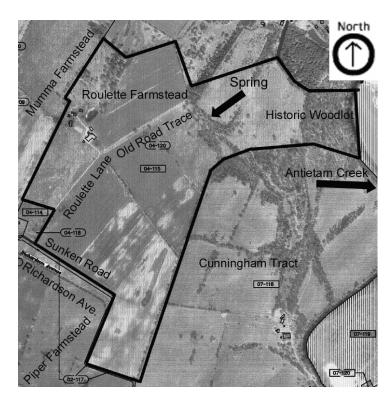
The Roulette Farmstead is situated approximately one-half mile north of the Town of Sharpsburg in Washington County, Maryland, and consists of the entire 179.5 acre property constituting the William Roulette Farmstead as it existed at the time of the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg) which occurred on September 17, 1862. The property was acquired by the National Park Service in fee simple from a private landowner in 1998 and is situated within the boundaries of the Antietam National Battlefield, which encompasses a total of 3,377 acres. The Battlefield was established in 1890 and came under the administration of the War Department from 1894 until it was transferred to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, in 1933.

The Roulette Farmstead Component Landscape is significant in three distinct areas and periods of history. Its primary significance in military history (1861-1865) results from its involvement with the Battle of Antietam during the Civil War. The property is also significant in the area of conservation for its association with early Civil War battlefield preservation efforts (1890-1933) and the numerous monuments, markers, and tour roads that are its by-products. Finally, the property is significant in the area of agricultural history for the high level of integrity that it possesses as an intact late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century agricultural landscape, (1761-1861) its intactness largely due to battlefield preservation efforts aimed at preserving the rural landscape as it existed on the eve of the Battle.

## Site Plan



Site plan of Roulette Farmstead, showing interrelationship between house and outbuildings. Fence lines and contour lines are shown on the plan.



Aerial photograph showing the relationship of the Roulette Farmstead to surrounding properties and landscape features.

## **Property Level and CLI Numbers**

Inventory Unit Name: Roulette Farmstead

Property Level: Component Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 600284

Parent Landscape: 600029

**Park Information** 

Park Name and Alpha Code: Antietam National Battlefield -ANTI

Park Organization Code: 3120

Park Administrative Unit: Antietam National Battlefield

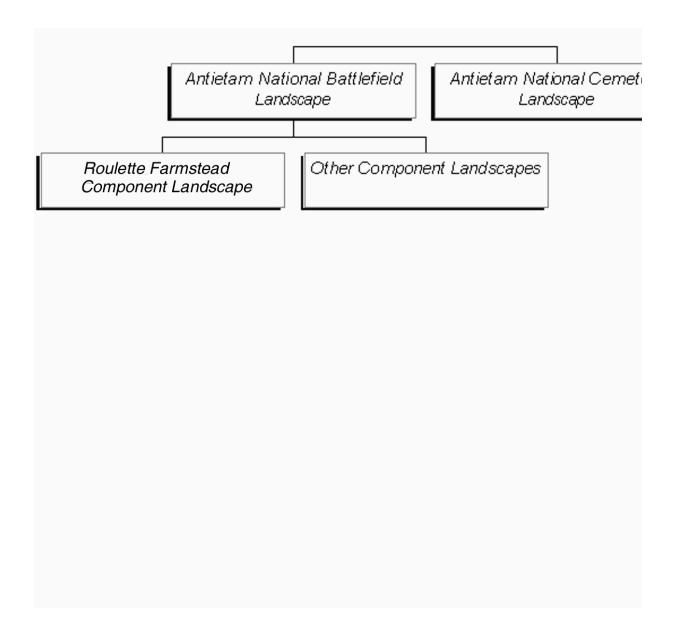
## **CLI Hierarchy Description**

#### Roulette Farmstead

#### Antietam National Battlefield

The Roulette Farmstead was identified as a component landscape of Antietam National Battlefield in 1999 as part of the Level O Cultural Landscape Inventory, along with fifteen other component landscapes: the A. Poffenberger/Locher Farmstead; Burnside Bridge area; the Cemetery Tract; the Cunningham Tract; the D. R. Miller Farmstead; Dunkard Church; the Haines Tract; the Lee Patch; Maryland Monument Grove; the Mumma Farmstead; the Otto Farmstead; the Philadelphia Brigade Park; the Piper Farmstead; the Pry Farmstead; and the Sherrick Farmstead.

Each component landscape either contributes to the significance of Antietam National Battlefield or may be individually eligible for the National Register. In essence, each of the farmsteads associated with Antietam National Battlefield function as their own individual agricultural landscape, yet collectively, they contribute to the overall significance of the Battlefield.



#### **Concurrence Status**

**Inventory Status:** Complete

## **Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

This CLI represents a continuation of the documentation of component landscapes at Antietam National Battlefield. Both primary and secondary sources were consulted, and resources both within and outside of the National Park Service were utilized. Aside from archival research undertaken to complete the Physical History section of the report, in-depth site investigations were conducted for the Analysis and Evaluation section.

The report was researched and written by Jeff Everett, Historian, Cultural Landscapes
Program, National Capital Region, with assistance from Jennifer Hanna, former Landscape
Architect with the NCR Cultural Landscapes Program; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical
Landscape Architect, NCR Cultural Landscapes Program; Martha Tempkin, Archaeologist,
National Capital Region; and Lynee Busta, National Council for Preservation Education Intern.
Park staff also provided assistance, including Jane Custer, Cultural Resource Program
Manager, and Duane Marcus, Biological Technician. Finally, Howard Miller, former resident of
the property, provided valuable information.

#### **Concurrence Status:**

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 09/01/2009

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 05/13/2004

#### **National Register Concurrence Narrative:**

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the State of Maryland concurred with the findings of the Roulette Farmstead CLI on 5/13/04, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

#### **Concurrence Graphic Information:**



#### United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE National Capital Region 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20242

September 1, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, Antietam National Battlefield

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Roulette Farm Cultural Landscape Condition

Reassessment

I, John Howard, Superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield, concur with the condition reassessment

for the Roulette Farm cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Poor:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for Roulette Farm is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, Antietam National Battlefield

2009.

Concurrence letter from the superintendent of Antietam National Battlefield, dated Speptember 1,



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE National Capital Region Office of Lands, Resources and Planning 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W. Washington, DC 20242

February 26, 2004

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Roulette Farmstead Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, J. Rodney Little, Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Roulette Farmstead Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on February 26, 2004.

J. Rodney Little

State Historic Preservation Officer

State of Maryland

Q -

Concurrence letter from the MD SHPO, dated 5/13/2004.

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:** Change in Condition

**Revision Date:** 09/01/2009

**Revision Narrative:** 

The condition of the Roulette Farm cultural landscape was reassessed FY2009. The Revision Concurrence Date is the date the concurrence memo was signed by the park superintendent.

**Revision Date:** 07/12/2004

#### **Revision Narrative:**

Revisions made to Buildings and Structures section as a result of additional research.

## **Geographic Information & Location Map**

#### **Inventory Unit Boundary Description:**

The Roulette Farmstead is identified by Washington County, Maryland Tax Map 76, Grid 3, Parcel 4. The 179.5 acre Roulette Farmstead is located immediately east of Antietam Creek and north of the Sunken Road, better known by its Civil War-era connotation of "Bloody Lane", which connects the Hagerstown Pike to the west and the Boonsboro Pike to the southeast. The Roulette Farmstead is bounded on the south, east, and west by other Federal lands that are part of Antietam National Battlefield, and on the north and northeast by private holdings. The boundaries of the Roulette Farmstead have remained relatively unchanged since the mid nineteenth-century, when the farm was comprised of approximately 179.25 acres; an additional .25 acres of land was appended to the farm in 1869.

## **State and County:**

State: MD

**County:** Washington County

**Size (Acres):** 179.50

#### **Boundary UTMS:**

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,546

**UTM Northing:** 4,372,208

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,593

**UTM Northing:** 4,372,322

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,651

**UTM Northing:** 4,372,438

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,653

**UTM Northing:** 4,372,442

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,350 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,646

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,345 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,650

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,425 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,780

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,304 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,823

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,381 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,984

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,492 **UTM Northing:** 4,373,199

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,411

**UTM Northing:** 4,373,046

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,715 **UTM Northing:** 4,373,364

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,626

**UTM Northing:** 4,373,440

Source:	<b>GPS-Differentially Corrected</b>

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,482 **UTM Northing:** 4,373,223

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,475

**UTM Northing:** 4,373,213

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,964

**UTM Northing:** 4,373,246

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,907

**UTM Northing:** 4,373,423

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 265,305 **UTM Northing:** 4,373,352

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 265,367 **UTM Northing:** 4,373,252

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 265,423 **UTM Northing:** 4,373,218

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 265,600

**UTM Northing:** 4,373,218

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 265,610

Source:

Datum:

Type of Point:

UTM Northing:	4,372,951
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**GPS-Differentially Corrected** Source:

Point Type of Point:

Datum: **NAD 83** 

**UTM Zone:** 18

265,434 **UTM Easting:** 4,373,013 **UTM Northing:** 

**GPS-Differentially Corrected** Source:

**GPS-Differentially Corrected** 

Point

Type of Point: **Point** 

**NAD 83** Datum:

**UTM Zone:** 18

265,197 **UTM Easting:** 4,372,998 **UTM Northing:** 

**NAD 83** 

18 **UTM Zone:** 

**UTM Easting:** 265,085

4,372,961 **UTM Northing:** 

**GPS-Differentially Corrected** Source:

Type of Point: Point

Datum: **NAD 83** 

**UTM Zone:** 18

**UTM Easting:** 265,030

4,372,918 **UTM Northing:** 

**GPS-Differentially Corrected** Source:

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,738 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,105

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,723 **UTM Northing:** 4,372,111

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,540

**UTM Northing:** 4,372,177

**Source:** GPS-Differentially Corrected

Type of Point: Point

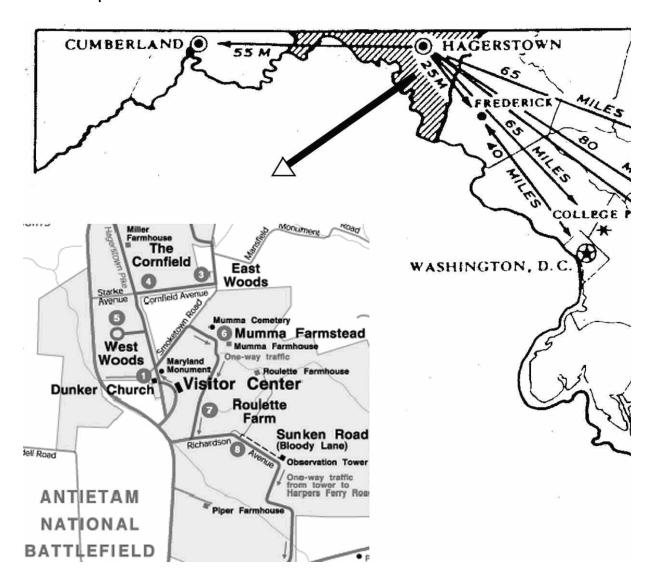
Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 18

**UTM Easting:** 264,536

**UTM Northing:** 4,372,184

#### **Location Map:**



Location of Washington County, Maryland and Antietam National Battlefield. Large map reprinted from U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Survey of Washington County. Inset reprinted from NPS brochure. Shaded areas on inset map represent Federal lands.

#### **Regional Context:**

Type of Context: Cultural

#### **Description:**

The Roulette Farmstead is typical of historic properties in the Sharpsburg District of Washington County, Maryland, for its association with a variety of ethnic and religious groups and tradition of agricultural production. The property on which the Roulette Farmstead was eventually established has been under cultivation since at least 1761, when John Reynolds, a farmer of Anglo-Irish lineage (Williams 1906, 1304) from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, (http://www.familysearch.org) acquired the property from William Anderson (Frederick County Land Records, Liber G, Folio 83). There is documentation that the property was definitely being farmed by 1784, when John Reynolds willed half of his estate to his son, Joseph Reynolds, since the will makes mention of livestock, farming utensils, and one slave (Washington County Will Books, Liber A, Folio 91). Joseph Reynolds assembled, and subsequently sold, several other parcels so that the farm totaled 262 acres by the time he conveyed it to John Miller, a farmer of Pennsylvania German ancestry, in 1804 (Washington County Land Records, Liber P, Folio 916).

Miller was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, (http://www.familysearch.org) but had migrated to Washington County, Maryland, with his parents and siblings around 1791 (Scharf 1882, 1219). His father, John Johannas Hannas Miller, was a member of the Church of the Brethren, (Williams 1906, 911) also known as Dunkers, and originally from Berks County, Pennsylvania, but had migrated to Franklin County before settling in Washington County (http://www.familysearch.org). The Millers owned the farm until 1851, when it passed to one of the younger John Miller's daughters, Margaret Ann Miller, and her husband, William Roulette (Washington County Land Records, Liber 6, Folio 394). The Roulette family had been in Washington County since at least 1774, (http://www.familysearch.org) and were of French Huguenot stock (Schooley 2002, 207). The Roulettes owned the property during the Civil War and it remained in family hands until 1956, when it was sold to Howard and Virginia Miller, (no relation to the original Millers) who in turn sold it to the National Park Service in 1998 (Washington County Land Records, Liber 311, Folio 631; Liber 1437, Folio 210).

The property continues to be farmed today through the National Park Service's agricultural lease program, thus, visitors to Antietam National Battlefield can visualize the landscape as it essentially existed at the time of the Battle. The commemoration of the Battle through the years has resulted in several monuments being constructed on the Roulette Farmstead, the most recent of which is the Irish Brigade monument, dedicated in 1997.

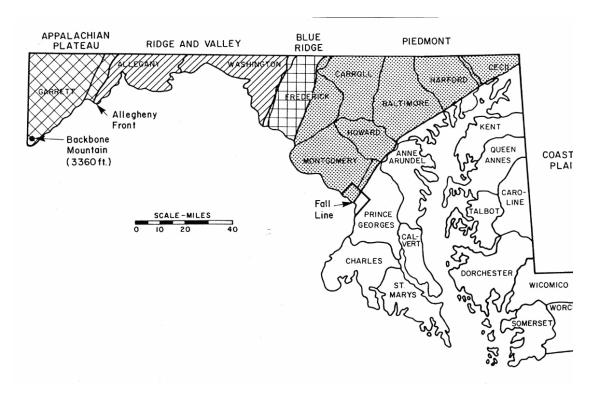
**Type of Context:** Physiographic

#### **Description:**

The Roulette Farmstead is located in Washington County, Maryland, within the portion of the County that is part of the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province. Specifically, the property is located in the eastern section of the Province referred to as the Appalachian Valley, more

commonly known as the Great Valley (Thornbury 1965, 109-110). In the Maryland portion of the Great Valley, it is known simply as the Hagerstown Valley, (Maryland Geological Survey 1906, 85) presumably after the centrally located county seat of Washington County.

The property consists of undulating topography that is dissected by a small spring that feeds into Antietam Creek to the east, which in turn empties into the Potomac River several miles to the south. Visible on the horizon to the east of the property is Blue (Elk) Ridge and South Mountain, which are the western-most ridges of the Blue Ridge Mountains as they divide into two major limbs north of the Potomac River, the eastern ridges being the Catoctin and Bull Run mountains in Maryland and Virginia (Thornbury 1965, 100). The property is underlain by agriculturally productive limestone soils that belong to the Hagerstown-Duffield-Frankstown association that occupies much of the Hagerstown Valley (U.S. Department of Agriculture 1962, 8-9). Although the property is predominantly pasture and cropland, there are two woodlots located on the farmstead. Most of the tree species in the Ridge and Valley physiographic region are in the Oak-Hickory forest group, although the Maple-Beech-Birch group exists in some of the higher elevations in the mountains framing the Great Valley.



Location of Maryland's five physiographic provinces. Reprinted from Douglas S. Powell and Neal P. Kingsley, The Forest Resources of Maryland (Broomall, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1980), 3.

**Type of Context:** Political

#### **Description:**

The Roulette Farmstead, located within the boundaries of Antietam National Battlefield, is situated within the First Election District of Washington County, Maryland, approximately nine miles south of Hagerstown, Maryland, 72 miles west of Baltimore, Maryland, and 72 miles northwest of Washington, DC. The property was owned by private landowners until the National Park Service acquired it in fee simple in 1998.

Antietam National Battlefield Site was established by an act of Congress on August 30, 1890, and was the second such battlefield site established in the nation after Chickamagua and Chattanooga National Military Park. The War Department was charged with administering Antietam until August 10, 1933, when its care was transferred to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior (Snell and Brown 1986, xviii).

Management Unit: n/a

**Tract Numbers:** 04-120 (formerly 04-115)

## **Management Information**

## **General Management Information**

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 09/25/2003

#### **Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

The Management Category Date is the date this CLI was first approved by the park superintendent, 9/25/2003. This cultural landscape was updated for condition in 2009.

#### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

#### **Management Agreement:**

Type of Agreement: Special Use Permit

**Expiration Date:** 9/30/2005

#### **Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

In October 2000, the Park executed Special Use Permit #NCR-ANTI-1000-01-04 with Dale A. Price and Terry A. Price, allowing them to grow crops and forage and graze cattle as a living exhibit in the Park's program to maintain the historic scene.

#### **NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Less than Fee Simple

#### **Explanatory Narrative:**

A scenic easement over 179.5 acres was acquired for \$152,500 by the National Park Service from Howard E. Miller, Jr., and Virginia B. Miller. The deed was recorded in the Washington County Circuit Court on 12/4/1986 at Liber 828, Folio 696.

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

#### **Explanatory Narrative:**

The National Park Service acquired in fee simple 179.5 acres from Howard E. Miller, Jr., and Virginia B. Miller for \$600,000, with funds provided by the Conservation Fund. The deed was recorded in the Washington County Circuit Court on 9/3/1998 at Liber 1437, Folio 210.

#### **Public Access:**

Type of Access: Other Restrictions

#### **Explanatory Narrative:**

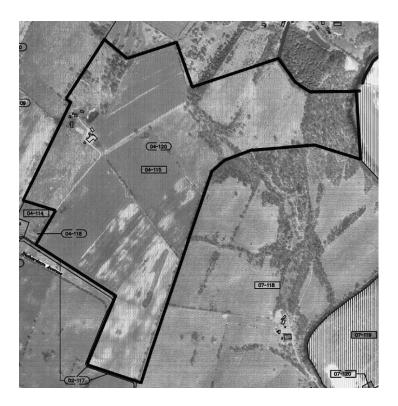
While the property is accessible for tourists traveling by foot, there are no provisions for vehicle parking. In addition, only the grounds are open to visitation, as the house and outbuildings are not currently open to the public.

#### **Adjacent Lands Information**

#### Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

#### **Adjacent Lands Description:**

The Roulette Farmstead is the most recent Federal acquisition of properties that are adjacent to the Sunken Road, the other two being the Mumma and Piper farmsteads. All three properties figured prominently in the fighting that took place along the Sunken Road during the Battle of Antietam, and the immense loss of life there earned it the title "Bloody Lane." With the Roulette Farm acquisition, which until 1998 was in private hands, the National Park Service can comprehensively interpret the action that took place in that vicinity. As with the Roulette Farm, the other two component landscapes retain a high degree of integrity and remain in agricultural production, which enables visitors to picture the landscape as it looked at the time of the Battle.



Roulette Farmstead tract numbers. Reprinted from NPS National Capital Region, Office of Lands, Resources, and Planning.

## **National Register Information**

**Existing NRIS Information:** 

Name in National Register: Antietam National Battlefield

**NRIS Number:** 66000038

Other Names: Antietam National Battlefield Site; Antietam National

Battlefield Site

**Primary Certification:** Listed In The National Register

**Primary Certification Date:** 10/15/1966

Other Certifications and Date: Additional Documentation - 2/19/1982

Significance Criteria: A - Associated with events significant to broad

patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

**Time Period:** AD 1761 - 1933

**Historic Context Theme:** Developing the American Economy

Subtheme: Agriculture

Facet: Small-Scale Commercial Agriculture (Crops, Orchards)

Other Facet: None

**Time Period:** AD 1761 - 1933

**Historic Context Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape

**Subtheme:** The Civil War

**Facet:** Battles In The North And South

Other Facet: None

#### Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

Area of Significance Category: Agriculture

Area of Significance Subcategory: None

#### Statement of Significance:

Antietam National Battlefield was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966, with a formal nomination completed in 1981 and an update in 1999. In the Nomination and Nomination Update, the Roulette Farmstead, along with several other farmsteads directly involved in the Battle, were listed as contributing resources. Although the Battlefield is listed on the National Register as an historic district, the Roulette Farmstead could individually be determined eligible for listing on the National Register.

The Roulette Farmstead is significant under Criterion A in the area of military history for its involvement in the Battle of Antietam, which occurred on September 17, 1862 during the Civil War. Due in large part to subsequent battlefield preservation efforts, the Roulette Farmstead has retained a high degree of integrity in landscape features present at the time of the Battle. Because of early (and ongoing) battlefield monumentalization and preservation efforts, the Roulette Farmstead is also significant in the area of commemoration and conservation under Criterion A. Finally, the Roulette Farmstead's intact late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century farm complex is significant under Criterion A for its association with the agricultural history of western Maryland during the Colonial, Early National, and Antebellum periods.

## State Register Information

Identification Number: WA-II-350

Date Listed: 06/01/1978

Name: Antietam Battlefield

## **Chronology & Physical History**

**Cultural Landscape Type and Use** 

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:** 

Primary Historic Function: Processing

Primary Current Use: Vacant (Not In Use)-Other

Other Use/Function Other Type of Use or Function

Storage (Granary/Silo) Historic

Barn Both Current And Historic

Agricultural Outbuilding Historic
Single Family House Historic

Scenic Landscape
Both Current And Historic
Monument (Marker, Plaque)
Both Current And Historic
NPS Class II Connector Road
Both Current And Historic
Monument (Building)
Both Current And Historic

**Current and Historic Names:** 

Name Type of Name

Roulette Farmstead Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:** 

Year Event Annotation

AD 1751 - 1761 Settled William Anderson purchases "Anderson's Delight" from

Thomas Cresap, who received a patent for the property

from Lord Baltimore's Land Office in 1748.

**Thomas Cresap** 

William Anderson

## Antietam National Battlefield

AD 1761 - 1784	Established	John Reynolds purchases Anderson's Delight from William Anderson in 1761 and establishes a farming operation. He adds 173 acres from parts of several other land grants. Reynolds likely constructs southern section of extant springhouse as his dwelling.
		John Reynolds
AD 1784 - 1804	Expanded	John Reynolds bequeaths one-half of his property to his son, Joseph, who appends several other tracts of land to the property and likely constructs one or more sections of the extant farmhouse.
		Joseph Reynolds
AD 1804	Land Transfer	Joseph Reynolds conveys the property to John Miller, who likely adds the northern section of the extant farmhouse.
		John Miller
AD 1804 - 1851	Cultivated	John Miller and his family continue agricultural production on the property, and construct many of the contributing outbuildings that survive today. Upon John III's death, the property passes to son, John IV.
		John Miller, III
		John Miller, IV
AD 1851	Land Transfer	Ann Miller, widow of John Miller, IV, conveys the property to William Roulette, husband of her sister-in-law, Margaret Ann Miller Roulette. Roulette likely builts the extant forebay barn.
		Ann Miller
		William Roulette
AD 1896 - 1897	Built	Stone observation tower constructed by the War Department at the southeastern edge of the Roulette Farmstead adjacent to Bloody Lane.
		War Department
AD 1897	Memorialized	Major General Israel B. Richardson mortuary cannon constructed by the War Department on the southern edge of the Roulette Farmstead adjacent to Bloody Lane.  War Department
		·

AD 1901	Land Transfer	William Roulette's heirs (he dies intestate) convey the property to Benjamin Roulette, William's son.
		Benjamin Roulette
AD 1903	Memorialized	Hexamer's Battery (NJ) monument dedicated (second position). Monument located at southern edge of the Roulette Farmstead adjacent to Bloody Lane.
		Hexamer's Battery (NJ) monument
AD 1904	Memorialized	132nd Pennsylvania Regiment monument dedicated. Monument located at southern edge of the Roulette Farmstead adjacent to Bloody Lane.
		132nd Pennsylvania Regiment monument
AD 1947	Land Transfer	Benjamin Roulette's heirs (he died intestate) convey the property to his son, Samuel Patterson Roulette, and his wife, Leoda Roulette.
		Samuel Patterson Roulette
		Leoda Roulette
AD 1956	Land Transfer	Samuel Patterson Roulette and Leoda Roulette convey the property to Howard Miller and Virginia Miller.
		Howard Miller
		Virginia Miller
AD 1964	Memorialized	2nd Delaware Regiment monument dedicated. Monument located at southern edge of the Roulette Farmstead adjacent to Bloody Lane.
		2nd Delaware Regiment monument
AD 1986	Preserved	Howard and Virginia Miller sell a conservation easement on the property to the National Park Service, thereby protecting the property from development in perpetuity.
		National Park Service
AD 1997	Memorialized	Irish Brigade monument dedicated. Monument located at the base of the observation tower adjacent to Bloody Lane.
		Irish Brigade monument

AD 1998

Land Transfer

Howard and Virginia Miller convey the property in fee simple to the National Park Service.

National Park Service

#### **Physical History:**

Prehistoric - Early Historic Period

The area that is now the Hagerstown Valley was notably lacking in permanent aboriginal villages at the time of contact with European settlers. Several of the Native American peoples of Algonquian linguistic stock living along the Upper Potomac Valley in the Late Woodland Period appear to have migrated to the Atlantic Coastal Plain and banded together to form fortified villages. Their movements may have been prompted by threats from tribes of the Iroquoian linguistic stock living to the north and west (Potter 1993, 126). Specifically, evidence suggests that the Susquehannocks dominated the Algonquian tribes in the Upper Potomac Valley after the Susquehannocks migration to the lower Susquehanna Valley between 1550-1575 (Ibid, 174-76). Although permanent villages were lacking, indigenous groups used the region as hunting grounds and as a thoroughfare for trade and making war (Egloff and Woodward 1992, 50). In particular, the Great Valley was used by the Five Nations Iroquois League (which later became the Six Nations) in present day New York State as an avenue to attack the Catawbas to the south in the present day Carolinas (Jennings 1984, 278).

Although archeological investigations aimed at uncovering Native American artifacts have been conducted at several farmsteads at Antietam National Battlefield, they predated the acquisition of the Roulette Farmstead by the National Park Service. Thus, specific investigations at the Roulette Farmstead have not been performed.

European Settlement, 1732 - 1761

Settlement of the Hagerstown Valley by people of European descent did not begin in earnest until the early 1730s. Reasons for its delayed settlement were a result not only of geographic considerations, given that the Ridge and Valley Province was some distance from the Atlantic Coastal Plain, but also political ones. Settlement of the Maryland backcountry was slowed by the boundary dispute between the proprietors of Maryland and Pennsylvania, the Calverts (Lords Baltimore) and Penns respectively (Cunz 1948, 48-58). The situation would not be resolved until 1767, when Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two English surveyors, finished drawing the famous Mason and Dixon line demarcating the borders of Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania (Danson 2001, 1). As a result of the dispute, which led to unclear title to land grants, many settlers migrating from southeastern Pennsylvania bypassed Maryland and settled in the more southerly Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. To intercept the emigrants bound for Virginia, Lord Baltimore issued a proclamation in 1732 offering two hundred acres of land of one's choosing free of rent for three years, and rent of one cent per acre per year in the fourth and subsequent years (Cunz 1948, 58-59). The incentive proved fruitful, as many emigrants from southeastern Pennsylvania began populating the Piedmont and Ridge and Valley sections of Maryland.

Upon the arrival of the Europeans, mainly by way of the Philadelphia Wagon Road, (Rouse 1973, ix) land in the Hagerstown Valley became intensely cultivated, as trees were cleared and land was ploughed. Although the majority of the settlers in the Hagerstown Valley were German-speaking peoples and people of Scotch-Irish descent migrating from the Delaware and

Susquehanna valleys in Pennsylvania, some settlers of English, Anglo-Irish, and Welsh extraction also migrated from Pennsylvania, although the majority of English migrated from the Chesapeake region in eastern Maryland. The Delaware Valley and Chesapeake settlers were markedly different in their settlement patterns. The Pennsylvania groups, often sectarians, established small, cohesive family farms that generally did not rely on slave labor. In contrast, the Chesapeake groups carried the plantation system to the Maryland backcountry that they had known in eastern Maryland, which was largely self-sufficient and relied on slave labor for the production of a single staple crop--tobacco.

Settlers in the Maryland backcountry who desired land were required to obtain it through Lord Baltimore's Land Office, since the Charter of Maryland granted in 1632 by King Charles I to Cecil Calvert, the Second Baron on Baltimore, conferred on Lord Baltimore all the powers of a lord proprietor. Thus, Lord Baltimore was the private owner of all land in Maryland, meaning that all land grants prior to the Revolution were granted by the Calvert family. The proprietary officials in Lord Baltimore's Land Office established a simple mechanism for awarding land grants in order to maximize revenues. Essentially, the process consisted of three steps. First, the settler would purchase a Warrant from the proprietary agent specifying the location of the land he desired. Second, the Warrant was issued to the county surveyor to lay out the specified number of acres being acquired, which was described in a Certificate of Survey. Finally, a Patent would be issued conveying fee simple title to a property, subject to an annual quitrent payment to the Proprietor (Walsh and Fox 1974, 3). Essentially, a quitrent was a feudal arrangement wherein a landowner pays rent instead of having to perform obligatory services to the lord.

The property on which the Roulette Farmstead was eventually established was part of at least eight separate land grants: Smith's Purchase (1747), Anderson's Delight (1748), Abston's Forrest (1758), Resurvey on Elzwick's Dwelling (1761), Addition to Smith's Purchase (1763), John's Chance (1764), Joe's Lot (1770), and Joe's Farm (1789). The land grant that formed the bulk of what would later become the Roulette Farmstead was Anderson's Delight, which was patented by the Land Office to Thomas Cresap in 1748 and consisted of 212 acres (Maryland State Archives, Prince George's County Patent Record TI No. 3, Liber 270). Cresap, a Marylander who hailed from Yorkshire, England, was a prominent land speculator on the western Maryland frontier (Bailey 1944, 11-12). In 1751, Cresap sold the property to William Anderson, a farmer from Virginia (Frederick County Land Records, Liber B, Folio 494). Anderson owned the property for ten years before selling it to John Reynolds in 1761 (Ibid, Liber G, Folio 83). It is likely that the property was not improved with a dwelling when Anderson acquired it in 1751, as indicated by the small amount he paid for it--53 pounds. However, a dwelling may have been standing by the time Reynolds acquired it in 1761 for 235 pounds, a substantial increase in only ten years. Whether or not this structure is the southern portion of the extant springhouse on the property cannot be established at this time, but its form and construction techniques suggest it may be possible.

Expanding Agricultural Production and Capital, 1761 - 1861

Colonial and Early National Periods While it was likely that William Anderson was farming the property that would later become the Roulette Farmstead, there is documentation that John Reynolds definitely cultivated the property for agricultural purposes during his tenure. For the Assessment of 1783 for Lower Antietam and Sharpsburg Hundreds in Washington County, John Reynolds' farm was listed as having a taxable value of just over 470 pounds--an indication that he made substantial improvements since his acquisition of the property for 235 pounds back in 1761. The Assessment specifies that he had 76 acres of arable land, 4 acres of meadow, and 112 ½ acres of woodland. In addition, he had 5 horses and 32 "black" cattle; black cattle is the British term for beef cattle. Furthermore, he had one still, suggesting he was growing some type of grain, probably rye. A house was presumably present, along with other agricultural outbuildings or at least a barn, as his improvements were valued at 50 pounds, a substantial figure when compared with other assessments in the Hundred (Maryland State Archives, Assessment of 1783, Lower Antietam and Sharpsburg Hundreds, Washington County).

Although a limited amount of information is known about agricultural production on the property during the latter part of the eighteenth-century and the first half of the nineteenth-century since agricultural censuses did not yet exist, some inferences can be made by examining the Assessment of 1783. As previously mentioned, John Reynolds had 32 black cattle--an indication that he was engaged in commercial production rather than raising beef only for domestic use. Furthermore, his 76 acres of arable land suggests crops were being grown on the farm--likely corn, wheat, and rye--in addition to his grasslands for grazing purposes. Finally, it is known that the farming operation was primarily worked with free rather than slave labor, since Reynolds owned only one slave--a female between 14 and 36 years of age. In essence, Reynolds' farm was typical of other farms in the Hagerstown Valley in the last quarter of the eighteenth-century.

Whereas the Hagerstown Valley was primarily a scene of subsistence farming prior to the Revolutionary War, the development of specialized agricultural commodities began to take place after 1783. Rye for grain and for distilling into whiskey was taking on prominence, as was flax and hemp. Although corn was not an important cash crop since the Hagerstown Valley was located too far from market to be profitable, it was used to fatten cattle in the lucrative livestock trade (Gray 1933, 812-820). Cattle were driven from the Maryland and Virginia backcountry and taken to market in Baltimore and Philadelphia. In fact, Maryland became a leader among the slaveholding states of improving breeds of cattle (Ibid, 840-47). The interest in cattle raising was perhaps due in part to the high prices beef was commanding as a result of the Napoleonic wars in Europe during the early nineteenth-century (Fletcher 1950, 179). Wheat also began to take on more importance after the Revolution and eventually displaced tobacco culture, which had been established in the Ridge and Valley primarily by eastern Maryland planters (Gray 1933, 881). Because tobacco culture never held the prominence in western Maryland as it did east of the Blue Ridge, and because farming practices brought by the Pennsylvania groups emphasized the use of crop rotation and manuring, soil exhaustion was not as widespread in the Hagerstown Valley as it was in much of the state (Craven 1926, 85-86). In fact, this section of Maryland, with its small, diversified farms worked predominantly with free, not slave labor, was much more prosperous than the older tobacco plantations in eastern Maryland (Ibid, 158).

At the time of his death in 1784, John Reynolds owned a total of 385 acres. Subsequent to the 212 acre "Anderson's Delight" tract that he acquired in 1761, Reynolds acquired an additional 138 acres in 1764 from Joseph Smith, which were portions of the "Resurvey on Elzwick's Dwelling", Smith's Purchase", and "Addition to Smith's Purchase" land grants (Frederick County Land Records, Liber J, Folio 715). In 1765, Reynolds acquired an additional 35 acres from Joseph Chapline that were part of the "Abston's Forrest" land grant (Ibid, Liber J, Folio 1156). In his will, Reynolds specified that his property be divided equally among his two sons, Joseph and Francis (Washington County Will Books, Liber A, Folio 91). Joseph's portion would eventually become the Roulette Farmstead, while Francis' acreage would later become the Mumma Farmstead.

In addition to the property he inherited, Joseph Reynolds added to his holdings when he acquired two additional parcels that were part of "Joe's Lott." In 1785, he acquired the first parcel, consisting of 45 acres, from Joseph Chapline, (also spelled Chaplain) (Washington County Land Records, Liber D, Folio 168) who had obtained the patent for "Joe's Lott" from the Proprietary Land Office in 1770 (Maryland State Archives, Frederick County Patent Record BC and GS No. 39, Folio 180). Comprised of 2,127 acres, "Joe's Lott" was one of many patents obtained by Chapline in Washington County (Williams 1906, 23-24). In 1789, Reynolds acquired an additional 51 acres of "Joe's Lott" from James Vardee (also spelled Verdier), (Washington County Land Records, Liber F, Folio 459) who in turn had purchased it in 1771 from Chapline's brother, William Williams Chapline (Frederick County Land Records, Liber O, Folio 601). Joseph Reynolds also obtained a land grant directly from the Land Office in 1789, which he added to the rest of his holdings. The grant, named "Joe's Farm", consisted of 240 \( \frac{1}{2} \) acres and was likely named for him (Maryland State Archives, Washington County Patent Record IC No. D, Folio 667). As Joseph Reynolds acquired more land, thus expanding his agricultural operations, he could have accumulated the capital needed for construction of one or more sections of the extant farmhouse during the last two decades of the eighteenth-century. Reynolds did own slaves, inheriting one from his father, but he set two of them free in 1794 (Washington County Land Records, Liber H, Folio 903).

In 1804, Joseph Reynolds sold the property to John Miller, a farmer of Pennsylvania German lineage who had been living elsewhere in Washington County. At the time of the sale, the property had been reduced to 262 acres (Ibid, Liber P, Folio 916). Miller may have added the northern section of the house soon after the acquisition, although an extensive architectural investigation will have to be completed to ascertain specific construction dates. Miller almost certainly added the northern section to the small stone cabin to make it a springhouse, as well as constructed the extant icehouse/root cellar and smokehouse on the property. The Millers owned the property until 1851, when William Roulette acquired it from the widow of John Miller's son, also named John. However, the property had been reduced to 179 ¼ acres, which is roughly its total acreage today (Ibid, Liber 6, Folio 394). Nevertheless, the property remained in family hands, as Roulette had married one of the eldest Miller's daughters from his (Miller's) second marriage, Margaret Ann (Williams 1906, 911). The Roulette family was arguably the most well-known residents of the property, as they owned it during the Battle of Antietam. Furthermore, they lived on the property for 105 years--by far the longest tenure of any of its owners.

#### Antebellum Period

The Roulette Farmstead was typical of the farms found in the Hagerstown Valley during the mid nineteenth-century. The Agricultural Census of 1850 for Washington County shows that William Roulette had a diversified agricultural operation whose primary purpose was to sustain the daily needs of the family with some additional income that likely was used to purchase items they could not produce themselves. Essentially, the Roulettes produced the products typical of a small family farm, as they had several sheep, pigs, milk cows, beef cattle, and horses. In addition, they produced wheat, corn, and oats. By 1860, they had established a small orchard, and rotated rye with the small grains previously mentioned. Conspicuously absent not only from the inventory of the Roulette property, but also all of the other farms in the Sharpsburg District of Washington County in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, is the production of tobacco. Likewise, the Roulettes did not own any slaves, but instead employed two free blacks on the farm. Although some farmers did own slaves in the Sharpsburg District, their numbers were never numerous (U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Schedules for 1850, 1860, Washington County, Maryland).

#### The Civil War, 1861 - 1865

Slavery was undoubtedly the galvanizing factor for the onset of sectional strife that came to be known as the Civil War. Perhaps nowhere were bitterly divided loyalties felt more strongly than the border state of Maryland, where brother truly did indeed fight brother. If Maryland seceded like its sister state Virginia had done, the Federal capital of Washington, DC, would be surrounded by enemy territory. Fortunately for the Union cause, the Maryland legislature voted not to adopt an ordinance of secession in 1861 (Ruffner 1997, 39). Despite Maryland's decision to stay in the Union, many of her sons went south to enlist in the Confederate army. Nevertheless, the majority of residents in western Maryland were pro-Union in their sympathies (Manakee 1961, 17-18). In fact, a large number of Union sympathizers left Virginia and settled in Washington County to avoid harassment (Williams 1906, 310).

William Roulette was himself a pro-Union man, a fact corroborated by eyewitness accounts at the Battle of Antietam, which saw him spring out of the cellar during the Battle to cheer on the advancing Army of the Potomac as they traversed his property (Priest 1989, 141). Roulette's farm was one of many in the Sharpsburg District involved in the Battle of Antietam, which was the bloodiest single day in American military history (The Conservation Fund 1990, 85). Taking place on September 17, 1862, the Battle of Antietam marked the first of General Robert E. Lee's two attempts to invade the North, the other culminating in the Battle of Gettysburg in July of 1863. While the Battle of Antietam ended in what was essentially a stalemate, it is generally regarded by historians as a Union victory, since Lee's invasion of the North ended with the Army of Northern Virginia retreating back across the Potomac. More important to the Union cause, however, was the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation shortly after the Battle. In addition to making the fight to preserve the Union also a fight to free the slaves, the Emancipation Proclamation effectively dashed the hopes of the Confederacy for receiving official sanction and possible intervention from England. Finally, Lee failed to receive the support of the citizenry in Maryland that he had hoped for when he crossed over the Potomac (Murfin 1965, 326-27).

The Roulette Farm figured prominently in the fighting during the Battle of Antietam. Although hostilities commenced near the Dunker Church early in the morning of September 17, 1862, when the Army of Potomac's First Corps under Major General Joseph Hooker attacked the Confederate left held by Major General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, the fighting had shifted to the center of the Confederate line by mid-morning (The Conservation Fund 1990, 82). There, one of Jackson's divisions under the command of Major General Daniel H. Hill was posted along a well-worn farm road known as the Sunken Road, which connected the Hagerstown Pike with the Boonsboro Pike. Facing Hill's division was a Union division commanded by Brigadier General William H. French, which was part of Major General Edwin V. Sumner's Second Corps. French's movement southward across the Roulette Farm towards the Sunken Road was accidental, as he had intended to move with Major General John Sedgwick towards the West Woods. At the Roulette buildings, French's troops encountered Confederate pickets, who fled for cover when one of their officers yelled out that they were being flanked by the Federals. Several Confederates found refuge in the cellar of the Roulette farmhouse (Murfin 1965, 246-47) and in the springhouse, where they were promptly captured by members of the 14th Connecticut (Page 1906, 36).

After traversing the Roulette Farm, whose plowed fields and meadow offered little cover for the Union assailants, (Sears 1983, 263) French found Hill's Confederates deeply entrenched behind the natural defensive position that the Sunken Road offered. Bolstering their defensive position was a breastwork constructed of rail fencing (Murfin 1965, 246) that had lined the road. Although the line was thin because Hill had sent part of his division to the left flank to aid Jackson, assaults by French's troops against the Sunken Road were repeatedly repulsed by persistent and point-blank Confederate fire (Time-Life Books 1996, 90). Colonel John B. Gordon, commanding officer of the 6th Alabama, reminisced in his memoirs on the events that transpired along the Sunken Road: "My first impulse was to open fire upon the compact mass as soon as it came within reach of my rifles, and to pour into its front an incessant hail-storm of bullets during its entire advance across the broad, open plain; but after a moment's reflection that plan was also discarded." He went on to say, "The only remaining plan was one which I had never tried but in the efficacy of which I had utmost faith. It was to hold my fire until the advancing Federals were almost upon my lines, and then turn loose a sheet of flame and lead into their faces. I did not believe that any troops on earth, with empty guns in their hands, could withstand so sudden a shock and withering a fire." He concluded, "My rifles flamed and roared in the Federals' faces like a blinding blaze of lightning accompanied by the quick and deadly thunderbolt. The effect was appalling. The entire front line, with few exceptions, went down in the consuming blast.... Before his rear lines could recover from the terrific shock, my exultant men were on their feet, devouring them with successive volleys." (Ibid, 107-08).

Reinforcements under Major General Richardson H. Anderson moved across the Piper Farm towards the Sunken Road to lend support to Hill's men. Longstreet ordered an attack, and some Confederates advanced as far north as the Roulette barn, thereby threatening the rear of the Union line. Just when the situation looked bleak, Major General Israel B. Richardson's division burst onto the scene to reinforce French and fill a gap in the Union line. One of Richardson's brigades was the famed Irish Brigade, commanded by flamboyant Brigadier

General Thomas F. Meagher, made up of the 63rd, 69th, and 88th New York, and the 29th Massachusetts (Murfin 1965, 253-55). The New York regiments were comprised almost exclusively of Irish Catholics from New York City with a reputation for toughness (Corby 1893, 17-21) while the 29th Massachusetts consisted primarily of old Puritan stock, who had joined the Brigade only a few months prior to the Battle (Jones 1969, 120-21). With their brigade chaplain, Father William Corby, riding in front of the ranks and granting conditional absolution to all who bravely faced the enemy, (Corby 1893, 112) Meagher's men faced Brigadier General Ambrose R. Wrights's brigade of Anderson's division on the eastern ridge overlooking the Roulette Farm, near the present-day observation tower. Meagher, who was knocked to the ground and removed to the rear after his horse was shot out from under him, stated in his official report after the Battle that, "It was my design, under the general orders that I received, to push the enemy on both their fronts as they displayed themselves to us, and, relying on the impetuosity and recklessness of Irish soldiers in a charge, felt confident that before such a charge, the rebel column would give away and be dispersed." (Murfin 1965, 255). The Confederates did not disperse, and the Irish Brigade suffered heavy losses. Before their ammunition was almost exhausted, the Irish Brigade was relieved and sent to the rear, having suffered 60 percent casualties (Potter and Owsley 2000, 59).

Despite the failure of previous Union regiments in penetrating the Confederate defenses, another of Richardson's brigades, commanded by Brigadier General John C. Caldwell, was able to move around the Confederates' right flank and dislodge the Southerners from the Sunken Road. The Union assault was finally halted by Longstreet's hastily-gathered artillery on the Piper Farm. Although another Union assault by Major General William B. Franklin, commander of the Sixth Army Corps, likely could have destroyed the Confederate center and along with it, Lee's army, cautious Union commander Major General George B. McClellan stopped the attack before it started, opting instead for defensive tactics (Time-Life Books 1996, 91). By the mid-afternoon, the action had shifted away from the Roulette Farm and the Sunken Road, forever after known as "Bloody Lane" after the carnage that had taken place there. The bulk of the fighting was now focused to the south along Antietam Creek at the Lower Bridge, where a stalemate finished the day and the Battle (Ibid, 118-19).

In the wake of the Battle, many of the farmers of the Sharpsburg District of Washington County were left with devastating losses to both buildings and crops, not to mention the traumatic sight of viewing dead bodies strewn across their property. Roulette's neighbor to the west, Samuel Mumma, had his house and outbuildings burned by Confederates during the Battle for fear they would be occupied by Federal sharpshooters (Murfin 1965, 215). The Mummas had left their farm before the Battle, while Roulette and his family choose to remain on theirs, where they took refuge in the farmhouse cellar (Frassanito 1978, 197). While the Roulettes' property escaped the same fate as the Mummas, the family still suffered significant losses as evidenced by the war claim filed by William Roulette several weeks after the Battle. Roulette requested \$2,545.02 from the Federal government, which he apparently never received. The war reparations claim lists an inventory of damages or items taken, including damages to the house and barn, as well as sections of worm fencing, a fact corroborated by members of the Irish Brigade, who tore down large sections of rail fencing as they fought their way towards the Sunken Road (Conyngham 1866, 305).

Although Antietam was the largest battle fought in Washington County during the course of the War, it was by no means the only event to transpire. Washington County would be site of numerous engagements and troop movements, as the Great Valley served as a natural corridor for invasion for both armies as they moved between Pennsylvania and Virginia.



"Sons of Erin" Painting by Don Troiani, www.historicalartprints.com

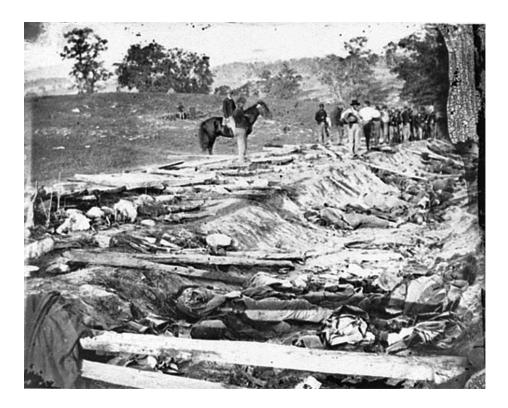
In a 1996 painting by noted Civil War historian and artist Don Troiani, Father Corby grants conditional absolution to the men of the Irish Brigade as they traverse the Roulette fields on their way to assault the Sunken Road.



Photograph of Union Brig. General Thomas F. Meagher, a former Irish nationalist, who commanded the Irish Brigade on their attack of the Sunken Road until knocked unconscious after falling from his horse. Reprinted from http://www.generalsandbrevets.com.



Photograph of Confederate Major General John B. Gordon, who bore the rank of Colonel when he tenaciously defended the Sunken Road from repeated Union assaults while commanding the 6th Alabama. Reprinted from http://www.generalsandbrevets.com.



Carnage resulting from the Battle of Antietam that gave Bloody Lane its name. Reprinted from http://www.nps.gov/anti/gallery.htm

Post-War Years and Establishment of Antietam National Battlefield, 1865 - 1933

## Agricultural Diversification and Specialization

Although the post-Civil War period was a difficult one for the former slaveholding states both socially and economically, western Maryland rebounded from the war more quickly than other regions of the Old Line State due to its diversified agriculture and small family farms. As animal power began replacing manpower, and innovations in grain harvesting equipment and widespread use of commercial fertilizer took hold, farms grew even more productive during this period (Rasmussen 1962, 579-581). Transportation infrastructure provided by the Washington County Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Shenandoah Valley Railroad, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal tied farmers of the Sharpsburg District in Washington County to the urban markets of Washington and Baltimore. Although general farming still predominated, increased specialization in agriculture was evidenced by the Hagerstown Valley becoming one of the most important fruit-growing regions in the eastern United States, along with its counterpart counties in the Shenandoah and Cumberland valleys (Baker 1927, 318). Whereas the counties closest to Baltimore and Washington began to specialize in commercial dairy production in the early twentieth-century, (Hartshorne 1935, 350-51) dairy cows in the Great Valley were generally kept to provide milk and butter for home use (Baker 1927, 318). Beef production, however, continued to be important in the Great Valley during this period, (Hartshorne 1935, 351-52) as was the production of wheat (Baker 1927, 314-15).

By examining agricultural censuses during the two decades after the Civil War, it is apparent that the agricultural operations being conducted on the Roulette Farm were indicative of regional trends. Like other farms in the Hagerstown Valley, the Roulettes had a general farming operation with a variety of livestock--never in large numbers--such as horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry. Furthermore, the Roulettes grew a variety of small grains, including corn, wheat, and rye. Nevertheless, the number of beef cattle on William Roulette's farm was greater than many of the farmers in the Sharpsburg District, and reflected the specialization in beef production that had been characteristic of the Hagerstown Valley since the post-Revolutionary War period. In addition, wheat production on the Roulette Farmstead had steadily increased from the pre-Civil War period, and remained at a higher per bushel average than other farms in the District, reflecting the prominence that that grain played in the local agricultural economy (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Schedules for 1870, 1880, Washington County, Maryland). Thus, while diversification in the types of agricultural products raised on the Roulette Farm allowed them to sustain themselves in a self-sufficient manner, the income derived from the sale of specialized agricultural commodities allowed them to purchase goods that they could not produce at home.

William Roulette and his wife, Margaret Ann, raised eight children at the farmstead, although two apparently died at a young age (Williams 1906, 958). Several of their children were prominent local citizens, including Joseph Roulette, who was proprietor of the R. A. Knitting Mills in Hagerstown (Williams 1906, 958). Although several children moved off the farm by 1880 to make their livelihood elsewhere, William and Margaret Roulette still had two sons living at home and helping him with the farm work--Ulysses and Benjamin. Their youngest surviving daughter, Susan, was living at home at that time as well. To assist with chores around the house, an older black woman was employed as a servant (U. S. Bureau of the Census, Population Census for 1880). Margaret Ann died in 1883 and William retired from farming four years later and moved into the Town of Sharpsburg, at which time his son, Benjamin, took over the farming operation. William remarried a woman named Elizabeth at an unknown date, and died in 1901 at the age of 75 (Williams 1906, 1240). William died without a will, and his heirs conveyed the property to Benjamin that same year (Washington County Land Records, Liber 115, Folio 320). According to Thomas J.C. Williams, who published a detailed history of Washington County in 1906, Benjamin Roulette was a progressive farmer whose crops were consistently among the best in the local market. To supplement his general farming operation, he specialized in raising market hogs. Benjamin was married in 1886 to Elizabeth Brown Rhoades, with whom he had four children (Williams 1906, 1240).

#### Battlefield Preservation and the War Department

Despite the relative return to normalcy following the Civil War, the events that transpired in September 1862 around Sharpsburg--indeed around all areas of the country where conflict played itself out on the landscape--still was very much on the minds of many Americans. Thus, a movement began to emerge with the purpose of preserving the nation's most important Civil War battlefields, with the Federal government figuring prominently. Not many years after the War had ended, many of the major battlefields were surveyed and mapped and accompanied official reports of the fighting that took place. In 1880, Congress made the first appropriation for such work, when \$50,000 was earmarked for completing a detailed study of the Battle of

Gettysburg. In 1890, money was appropriated for studying Antietam. Also in 1890, an Act of Congress established Antietam National Battlefield Site, the second battlefield to be preserved by the War Department after Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park (Snell and Brown 1986, 67-68). During the 1890s, the acquisition of battlefield land by the Federal government at Antietam and Chickamauga/ Chattanooga, along with Gettysburg, Shiloh, and Vicksburg, was precedent-setting; prior to that decade, such acquisitions by the Federal government for historic preservation purposes were rare. The acquisition of battlefield land, however, was preceded by the creation of national cemeteries, which Congress declared was a Federal responsibility when it passed a measure in 1867 ensuring their establishment and protection. Prior to that time, only states and localities were involved in establishing cemeteries for soldiers killed during the Civil War (Boge and Boge 1993, 16-20).

Essentially, two battlefield preservation methods were adopted by the War Department in the 1890s, which came to be known as the Chickamauga and Antietam methods, respectively; the former involved significant land acquisition, while the latter relied on acquiring small strips of land where major action had occurred. The idea for the Antietam plan was conceived by Major George Breckenridge Davis while serving as president of the Antietam Board, the entity responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Battlefield. Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont was in concurrence with Davis' idea, and commented in 1895 that the method used to preserve the battlefield at Antietam was much cheaper and quicker than that which had been employed thus far. Antietam National Battlefield was developed according to its namesake style of plan, and was completed between 1894 -1898. The War Department was required to mark and preserve the positions of the armies during the Battle, which was accomplished through minimal land acquisition, along with road construction, monument erection, and interpretive devices, including markers and maps (Snell and Brown 1986, 85-96).

Relevant to the Roulette Farm, War Department activities related to preservation and commemoration were few, primarily because of the limited land acquisition goals of the Antietam Plan. As such, the Roulette Farmstead remained in private hands for many years after the War. Nevertheless, a stone observation tower was constructed in 1896 -1897 in the southeastern corner of the property near Bloody Lane for the purpose of viewing the Battlefield from a prominent vantage point. In addition, wire fencing and iron tablets containing interpretive text were installed along Bloody Lane during the same period. Finally, a road paralleling Bloody Lane was likely constructed at this time, as there was undoubtedly concern about the adverse effects of traffic on that historic feature. However, the initial proposal called for lining the bottom of the original road bed with metal rather than the construction of a parallel road (Ibid, 96 -109). In any event, the parallel road was in place by 1904, as a photograph depicting both roads is shown without the 132nd Pennsylvania monument in place--the monument was dedicated in 1904 (Schildt 1991, 138-39).

In addition to battlefield preservation and commemoration conducted by the Federal Government, state governments and private associations were also heavily involved in those tasks. One of the earliest such private associations was the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, which was founded soon after that battle in September of 1863 (Linenthal 1993, 90). Reunions and dedications of monuments by veterans organizations and politicians from

their home states came into vogue at the turn of the twentieth-century. May 30 (Memorial Day) and September 17 (the day of the Battle) were usually the days selected for dedication of monuments at Antietam. Veterans came in droves from the northeastern states via the Pennsylvania Railroad for the dedication days at Antietam (Schildt 1991, 12-13). Generally, the plots of land for the monuments were purchased by the respective states directly from a particular property owner, but were later transferred to the Federal government. A total of four monuments were placed on property that was once part of the Roulette Farm to honor the Union regiments who fought on the property during the battle: the 2nd Delaware, the 132nd Pennsylvania, Hexamer's Battery (New Jersey), and the Irish Brigade (63rd, 69th, 88th New York and 29th Massachusetts). The monuments are all located along Bloody Lane.

National Park Administration of Antietam National Battlefield and Acquisition of Roulette Farm, 1933 - Present

Antietam Battlefield was transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service in 1933 (Snell and Brown 1986, 141). A report issued soon after the transfer was made noted that additional land should be acquired by the Park Service if battlefield preservation were to be made effective (Ibid, 171). Although more land was indeed acquired by the National Park Service, the Roulette Farm stayed in private hands for many more years, a fact lamented by the Superintendent of the Park in his 1956 report (Ibid, 300). Thus, details concerning the twentieth-century history of the Roulette Farm are more limited than for surrounding properties acquired earlier by the Park Service, which are described in Snell and Brown's administrative history of the Park, and in various Park Service planning and construction documents.

Benjamin Roulette owned the property from his father's death in 1901, to his own death in 1947. While Benjamin died intestate like his father before him, (Washington County Land Records, Liber 240, Folio 293) the property managed to stay in the family when it was conveyed to his youngest son, Samuel Patterson Roulette (Ibid, Liber 240, Folio 294). Samuel and his wife, Leoda, lived on the property until 1956. At that time, it passed out of descendants of the Miller-Roulette families, who had owned the property continuously since 1804, and was acquired by different Millers--Howard and Virginia Miller (Ibid, Liber 311, Folio 631). However, the Millers sold a conservation easement to the Park Service thirty years later, which precluded subdivision of the property (Ibid, Liber 828, Folio 696). The property was eventually placed on the market, where it was finally acquired by the Park Service in 1998, with funding provided by the Conservation Fund, a national non-profit land conservation organization (Ibid, Liber 1437, Folio 210).

Although the Roulette Farm is no longer in private hands, it remains in agricultural production today, which is fitting of its historical use on the eve of the Battle. Currently, the farm is leased to local farmers, who utilize the property for both crops and pasture. Washington County remains one of the most prominent agricultural counties in the State of Maryland; it is first in sale of fruits and second in sales of dairy products (Maryland Agricultural Statistics Service 1997). The fruit industry, particularly the production of apples, has long played an important role in the agricultural economy of Washington County. In comparison, dairying has taken on more prominence as the twentieth-century has progressed. Whereas the counties closer to

Baltimore and Washington were more prominent in milk production in the 1930s, (Hartshorne 1935, 350-51) by the 1960s, production shifted to the western Piedmont and Ridge and Valley provinces as a result of suburbanization. Dairy farmers that were displaced by development shifted the location of their operations westward, and those already engaged in livestock and grain operations in western Maryland shifted to dairying (Durand 1964, 10-19). Dairying once took place on the Roulette Farm, as evidenced by the extant milkhouse, silo, and milking parlor, but dairying activity was discontinued in 1966 (Howard Miller, conversation with author, 6 May 2003).

The continuance of agricultural production on the Roulette Farmstead is not an isolated incident, nor is the integrity of the battlefield landscape a haphazard occurrence. The National Park Service operates a successful agricultural lease program wherein battlefield land is leased to local farmers, who help to perpetuate the historic scene by continuing its use for agricultural purposes. In addition, the Park Service, through its land protection plan, has pursued key properties involved in the Battle of Antietam and has purchased numerous conservation easements or acquired land in fee simple. Partnering with the Park Service has been a plethora of non-profit entities and state and local government agencies interested in permanently protecting the landscape in and around the Battlefield. These groups include national non-profits such as the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Conservation Fund, and state agencies including the Maryland Department of Planning, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Program Open Space, the Rural Legacy Program, and the Maryland Environmental Trust. Supporting the state's work is the Washington County Planning Department, which administers local land use planning activities as well as an agricultural preservation easement program in conjunction with the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, the oldest state farmland preservation program in the nation. Furthermore, the Department is responsible for overseeing implementation of Rural Legacy grants in the County. The Rural Legacy Program is a nationally-recognized program administered through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, which seeks to preserve lands containing highly significant natural and cultural resources. Although some parcels have been acquired through fee simple purchases, the majority of preserved properties have come about through the purchase or donation of conservation easements.

Despite increased land development activity in southern Washington County resulting from its proximity to the ever-expanding Baltimore - Washington metropolitan region, Antietam remains one of the country's best-preserved Civil War battlefields. Indeed, it is undoubtedly one of the best preserved of any of the nation's battlefields from all wars fought on American soil. Battlefield land is inherently farmland, and preserving one resource lends itself to the preservation of the other. In essence, preserving farmland not only can help preserve an agricultural economy, but also helps preserve historic resources. Typically, battlefields are comprised of several farms that cohesively and collectively contribute to the overall significance of the martial landscape. In the case of Antietam, the Roulette Farmstead, along with several other adjacent properties, possesses a high level of historic significance and forms an integral part of the battlefield landscape. In fact, the current scene at Antietam is much as Major George Breckenridge Davis hoped it would be when he proposed the Antietam Plan of battlefield preservation. When testifying before the House Committee on Military Affairs,

# Roulette Farmstead

# **Antietam National Battlefield**

Davis stated, "If it is the purpose of Congress to perpetuate this field in the condition in which it was when the battle was fought, it should undertake to perpetuate an agricultural community....That was its condition in 1862, and that is the condition in which it should be preserved" (Boge and Boge 1993, 24).

# **Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity**

# **Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:**

The character-defining features of the Roulette Farmstead were identified and evaluated to determine their level of integrity and contribution to the overall historical significance of the property. Landscape features from three periods of historical significance were evaluated for their level of integrity: the settlement and early agricultural landscape (1761-1861), the Civil War landscape (1861-1865), and the Civil War commemoration landscape (1890-1933).

To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must not only possess historical significance, but must also retain its integrity. According to the National Register, a property must possess at least some, and often most, of the following aspects to have integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. By possessing these aspects, a property is able to convey its significance.

#### Location

The Roulette Farm has not had any major boundary adjustments since at least 1851, and some of the boundary lines are demarcated with what appears to be original fencing. Therefore, the farm possesses a high degree of locational integrity.

#### Design

The arrangement of the pre-Civil War farm buildings on the property has not changed, although several outbuildings have been removed and several post-War buildings have been constructed. Nevertheless, the post-War buildings do not detract from the original configuration of the farm layout, which overall retains a high degree of integrity.

# Setting

The Roulette Farmstead has changed little since the Battle of Antietam and has a high degree of integrity in its setting. The pre-Civil War house and outbuildings are in their original locations, the circulation system is intact, and the property is still used for agricultural purposes.

#### Materials

The level of integrity for materials is moderate, since several of the buildings have modern siding and roofing, while others retain either their original materials or compatible materials of post-Civil War vintage.

#### Workmanship

Although the log notching is no longer visible in the wall construction of the house because of subsequent sheathing, workmanship is best visible in the walls of the springhouse/cabin, where coursed limestone walls have been accented with stone quoins and door entries have been topped with keystone lintels. Hand-hewn joists and framing members in the barn are visible upon entry and show skill in the fitting of mortise and tenon.

#### Feeling

Generally a subjective category, it is evident that the Roulette Farmstead evokes a feeling of an intact late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century agricultural landscape that continues to the present.

#### Association

As with Feeling, the Roulette Farm's contemporary agricultural use approximates its use on the eve of the Battle of Antietam, the event that gives the property its greatest historic significance. In other words, visitors to the Battlefield are able to look out upon a landscape that is little changed since 1862, as agricultural preservation is also effective battlefield preservation and vice versa.

# **Landscape Characteristic:**

#### **Natural Systems And Features**

The Roulette Farmstead and the surrounding countryside exhibits the topography typical of the eastern portion of the Ridge and Valley physiographic province, which is gently undulating and flanked by generally flat-topped linear mountain ridges, which in turn are punctured by numerous wind gaps; these wind gaps, such as Crampton's, Fox's, and Turner's gaps in South Mountain, were formerly water gaps through which streams once flowed before they were captured or "pirated" by other bodies of water--in this case, Antietam Creek (Thornbury 1965, 102-109). Although the body of water that transverses the Roulette Farmstead is an unnamed spring, it and several other similar springs on adjacent properties flow into Antietam Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River. Antietam, like its counterpart to the west, Conococheague Creek, displays a "trellis" pattern typical of stream patterns in the Ridge and Valley Province, where water has carved valleys into sedimentary rocks and created a pattern indicative of its name (Miller 1995, 38).

Several outcroppings on the Roulette Farmstead display the limestone bedrock that is characteristic of much of the Hagerstown Valley. Although the outcroppings present a challenge to farming, the limestone soils of the Valley are conducive to agriculture, as Washington County is one of the most productive agricultural areas on the East Coast. The Hagerstown-Duffield-Frankstown soil association is the dominant soil series in the Hagerstown Valley, which consists of deep, well-drained soils suitable for growing a wide variety of crops. The region's agricultural productivity is further enhanced by its temperate climate, which is favorable to dairying and fruit production (U. S. Department of Agriculture 1962, 1-31). Specifically, Maryland's climate is the Humid Continental type, which extends from New York State south to Virginia and from the Atlantic Ocean westward to the 100th meridian (Murphy and Murphy 1952, 26).

Maryland's humid climate with abundant precipitation is also conducive for tree growth (Maryland State Department of Planning 1973, 12). The Hagerstown Valley's location midway between northern and southern forests is responsible for the wide variety of tree species present here (Maryland Geological Survey 1906, 247). Mixed hardwoods more common southward, such as oak, hickory, and walnut, occupy the same ground as species found in the north: hemlock and white pine, as well as beech, birch, and maple (Murphy and Murphy 1952, 29-30).

Essentially, the natural features on the Roulette Farmstead have not been altered to a great extent since the European settlement of the farmstead in the late eighteenth-century, except for the establishment of a pond which is discussed later in this report in the Constructed Water Features section. Thus, the property possesses a high degree of integrity in the category of Natural Systems and Features.

## **Topography**

Essentially a subset of Natural Systems and Features, the Roulette Farmstead has topography typical of the Ridge and Valley Physiographic Province, which was discussed in the preceding paragraphs. However, several distinctive topographic features of the property are noteworthy of discussion, since these features played a role in the event from which the property derives its greatest historic significance--the Battle of Antietam. Two low-lying areas on the property affected military strategies employed during the Battle--the Roulette Lane and the Sunken Road. The lane provided some cover for advancing Federal troops, since little was to be had elsewhere on the farm for lack of trees due to plowed or pastured land. The Roulette Lane forms a swale, as it is situated where the ground slopes downward from the hills on either side. The southern outlet for the lane is the Sunken Road, which connected the Hagerstown Turnpike with the Boonsboro Pike. The Sunken Road derives its name from the fact that repeated use by wagons, combined with erosion, lowered the road significantly below the grade of the Roulette Farmstead and other adjacent properties. The Sunken Road provided a ready-made entrenchment for Confederates, who fired mercilessly on advancing Federals traversing the open ground from the north (Murfin 1965, 255).

The property's topography remains essentially the same today, as no substantial grading or erosion has altered the significant topographic features discussed. The open ground on the eastern side of the Roulette Lane remains as such, although the ground on the western side of the lane where it meets the Sunken Road now has some vegetation concealing land that was pasture during the Battle.

## Vegetation

The property on which the Roulette Farmstead would later be established was likely completely forested with hardwoods when the Europeans first began settling the Hagerstown Valley (Powell and Kingsley 1980, 2). Before agricultural production could commence, the onerous task of clearing the land had to be accomplished. According to some historians, clearing methods differed with cultural background. The English generally removed trees by girdling, which involved removing the bark and letting the trees rot while burning the undergrowth; in a few years, the trees would die and could be removed (Cronon 1983, 116). In contrast, the Germanic groups felled the trees, removed their stumps, and then burned them, which added fertilizer to the soil (Miller 1995, 184). Once the land was cleared, crops were soon planted, which by the late eighteenth-century likely consisted of a rotation of corn, oats or barley, wheat, clover, and grass. This system of farming, aptly named "the cropping system", was developed in southeastern Pennsylvania (Fletcher 1950, 129-130) and eventually spread to central Maryland and northern Virginia (Gray 1933, 919).

In the Assessment of 1783 for the Lower Antietam and Sharpsburg Hundreds in Washington County, John Reynolds, owner of what was to become to the Roulette Farmstead, was listed as having 192 1/2 acres of land--112 1/2 acres were woodland, 76 acres were arable land, and 4 acres were meadow. Although the types of crops he was growing were not mentioned, he was listed as having a still, which indicates that he was growing some small grains. Furthermore, Reynolds was listed as owning 32 cattle. Thus, his farm was typical of those in western Maryland in that he began to specialize in raising cattle for market in Baltimore or Philadelphia. By 1850, when the first agricultural census was taken, the amount of cleared land on the Roulette Farmstead increased significantly, as 139 acres were improved compared with only 40 acres of unimproved land. By 1880, this total increased to 168 acres of improved land, with the remainder in woodland. As the amount of cultivated land increased, the number of livestock tended to decrease, suggesting the increasing importance of grains, particularly wheat.

Presently, the Roulette Farmstead's land cover approximates that which existed on the eve of the Battle. Although modern agribusiness needs often outweigh exact historical cropping conditions, the current rotation approximates the traditional mixture of pasture and cropland. The only major change in the composition of the contemporary agricultural landscape is the absence of the orchard that was established on the property by at least the mid nineteenth-century. Although it is not known when the orchard was removed, it is apparent that it was comprised of roughly four acres at the time of the Civil War, which is important information should the orchard be reestablished (U. S. Bureau of the Census, Agricultural Census of 1870, Washington County, Maryland). The location of the orchard at the time of the Battle of Antietam--situated to the southwest of the house and barn--is shown on the Carman-Cope maps prepared for the Antietam Battlefield Board of the War Department.

Overall, the Roulette Farmstead still retains a high degree of integrity in its agricultural landscape, since it has remained cleared and utilized for farming rather than left to regenerate like many abandoned farm fields in the region. Although much of the property was cleared for agriculture, one or more woodlots have always been retained since they provided a source of fuel and construction materials for buildings and fences. The present ten-acre woodlot located in the northeastern corner of the Roulette Farmstead contains primarily hickory, ash, elm, and yellow poplars, but also black walnut, cherry, black gum, persimmon, beech, boxelder, hackberry, and white, red, and scarlet oaks. Another woodlot, approximately eight acres in size, is located closer to the farmhouse (Washington County Soil Conservation District 1996). Although the majority, if not all, of the trees in both woodlots post-date the Civil War, the species and size likely approximate the type of woodlots retained on the property since its establishment in the eighteenth-century. The 1880 Agricultural Census for Sharpsburg District shows that roughly the same amount of acreage--fourteen--was comprised of woodland on the Roulette Farm at that time. Furthermore, the Carman-Cope maps show a woodlot in the same location as the present-day ten-acre woodlot.

Aside from the vegetation found in the surrounding fields, the area constituting the house yard contains various ornamentals, such as peonies, forsythia, lilac, and honeysuckle; deciduous trees

such as silver maple, black locust, and weeping willow; and conifers such as red spruce. Although all were planted after the period of primary significance, the locations of the trees in front of the house (east) approximate those plantings existing at the time of the Battle, as determined from war-time and post-war photographs (Frassanito 1978, 179; Antietam National Battlefield Archives). Likewise, the ornamentals are typical of those found in the yards of rural residences in the region. According to primary accounts of the Battle of Antietam, a garden was present between the house and barn (Bosbyshell 1906, 161). Presumably, it was a vegetable garden, given the need to provide year-round sustenance for the residents on the farm, which was accomplished through pickling and canning. Indeed, western Maryland historically has had a high concentration of vegetable gardens for home use (Baker 1927, 328).

## **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Agricultural fields

Feature Identification Number: 105863

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Woodlots

Feature Identification Number: 105867

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Deciduous trees in yard

Feature Identification Number: 105865

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Conifer in yard

Feature Identification Number: 105864

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Ornamentals in yard

Feature Identification Number: 105866

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

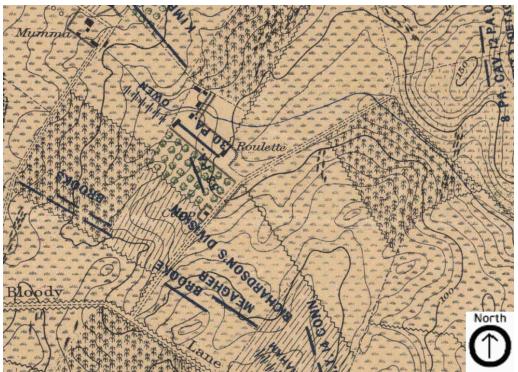
# **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View of the Roulette Farmstead from the Observation Tower showing strip cropping. Photograph by author, May 2003.



Reunion of the 14th Connecticut Infantry in front of the Roulette farmhouse, 1891. Note location of trees in front elevation of farmhouse. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



Carman-Cope Map showing the location of the Roulette orchard, which is located just south of the farmhouse. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.

# Land Use

Agriculture has been the predominant land use of the Roulette Farmstead since its establishment in the mid eighteenth-century. Although the property consisted of 262 acres by 1804, it was reduced to 179 acres by 1851, making it substantially smaller than many of the large plantations in eastern Maryland. The smaller acreage is a result of the diversified and self-sufficient nature of the agriculture practiced by the Hagerstown Valley's early European inhabitants. Its German-speaking sectarians, such as the Dunkers, opposed slavery on religious grounds (Henry 1936, 364) and established farms that were worked with free rather than slave labor and thus were confined to acreage that was both affordable and could be worked by a family unit. The Miller family, who owned the property between 1804-1851, were members of the Brethren (Dunker) Church and probably owned few, if any, slaves (Williams 1906, 911). The Roulettes also did not own slaves, but instead employed two free blacks on the farm (U. S. Bureau of the Census, Population Census of 1860, Washington County, Maryland).

The farm is currently leased to a local farmer through the National Park Service's agricultural lease program, which ensures that the property continues to be utilized for its historical purpose. The property has not changed in size since 1851, and remained in the same family's hands for 152 years. Thus, due to the property's continued agricultural use and consistent parcel size, the property exhibits high integrity in the category of Land Use. A conservation easement placed

on the property in 1986, as well as the 1998 fee simple acquisition by the National Park Service, insures that the property will be protected from residential, industrial, or commercial development. Indeed, the protection of land in and around Antietam Battlefield and the Town of Sharpsburg by local, state, and Federal government agencies, as well as non-profit groups and private citizens, has assured that the surrounding countryside retains the agrarian appearance that it had on the eve of the Battle of Antietam. The relatively pristine nature of the surrounding countryside is a major factor in drawing visitors to Antietam Battlefield, as they can gain an accurate feeling for what the landscape looked like on the eve of the Battle.

# **Views And Vistas**

The observation tower constructed on a portion of the Roulette Farmstead from 1896-1897 provides the best vantage point from which to view the property. The property's landscape, as well as that of adjacent properties, remains agrarian in nature and unobstructed by modern intrusions. Aside from the observation tower, another prominent vista of the Roulette Farmstead and surrounding properties is obtained from the fields west of the Roulette barn. Likewise, the view from the Roulette house provides a vantage point higher than the nearly level area along the farm lane. Overall, the property possesses a high degree of integrity, both in views to and from it. As was discussed under the Topography section, the views that both Union and Confederates troops saw as they traversed the farm during the Battle remain intact and unobstructed, with the exception of some vegetation near the southwestern corner of the property.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: View from Observation Tower

Feature Identification Number: 105868

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View to Observation Tower

Feature Identification Number: 105870

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View to Sunken Road

Feature Identification Number: 105871

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Sunken Road

Feature Identification Number: 105869

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View towards the Observation Tower from Roulette Lane. Photograph by author, May 2003.



View to the Roulette Farmstead from the Observation Tower. Photograph by author, May 2003.

#### **Constructed Water Features**

Early settlers in the Hagerstown Valley almost always selected property that had a source of water, whether it was a spring, creek, or river. The Roulette Farmstead was no different, since it is situated on a spring that feeds directly into Antietam Creek, which in turns feeds into the Potomac River. In fact, the property originally had at least two springs, as another is located on the adjacent Mumma Farmstead, which originally was part of John Reynolds' property before he divided it between his sons. The value of the water supply was recognized early on, as both springs were enclosed in protective stone alcoves with brick arches in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century. In the case of the Roulette Farmstead, a concrete-lined trough connects the spring with the spring house; the springhouse will be discussed in the Buildings and Structures section of this report. The historic significance of the spring on the Roulette Farmstead derives from its use by soldiers during the Battle of Antietam as a relief from the September sun, and is documented in many first-hand accounts. This structure remains relatively unchanged today.

A constructed feature that has been altered since the Civil War is the pond located to the east of the springhouse. Essentially, it is difficult to ascertain the exact use and extent of the pond historically. According to Howard Miller, long-time resident of the property, the pond did not exist until he created it in 1957 for the purpose of controlling flooding into his cropland and to provide a source of water for his livestock. Nevertheless, he acknowledged the presence of a low-lying marshy area prior to construction and speculated the presence of such an area historically (Howard Miller, conversation with author, 3 September 2003). From examining an historic photograph of the property taken by Alexander Gardner just after the Battle of Antietam, it is possible to make out what appears to be a pond-like body of water just east of the springhouse (Antietam National Battlefield Archives, ANTI (P) 07 A 272 (1862)). Indeed, it is logical that such a low-lying area always existed, as it situated at the outlet of the spring after it passes through the springhouse. However, for the purposes of evaluating the present pond, it is clear that its size and function is directly related to soil conservation practices implemented by the Millers in the 1950s, and is certainly much larger than its original configuration. In essence, before soil conservation practices became widely accepted, it was much more commonplace for farmers to simply let their cattle graze directly in a spring, stream, or river, thus eliminating the need to create a pond.

Overall, the property retains a high degree of integrity in terms of its Constructed Water Features. Together with the adjacent Mumma Farmstead and its eighteenth-century springhouse, the Roulette Farmstead exhibits the typical layout of early farmsteads in the Hagerstown Valley, which were situated adjacent to bodies of water.

## **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Vaulted spring alcove

Feature Identification Number: 101908

# Roulette Farmstead Antietam National Battlefield

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100225

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Spring

LCS Structure Number: 000

Feature: Pond

Feature Identification Number: 101907

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

# **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View of springhouse, with vaulted spring alcove in front of the left end of the building, and pond to the rear of the building. Photograph by author, May 2003.



Alexander Gardner photograph of the Roulette Farmstead taken several days after the Battle of Antietam. Close inspection reveals what may be a pond or marshy area to the left of the house and the right of the springhouse. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.

## Circulation

The means of ingress and egress to and from the Roulette Farmstead has not changed significantly since 1862 when the Battle of Antietam occurred. Access to the Roulette buildings was and still is provided by a farm lane off of Sunken Road, which is known better by its post-battle connotation of Bloody Lane. Although it is not known precisely when the Sunken Road was constructed, (or the Roulette Lane for that matter) it most certainly had been used for many years prior to the Civil War due to its deeply eroded roadbed undoubtedly caused by wagon wheels. Roulette's lane, now a gravel driveway, extends northward from its junction at the Sunken Road until it divides at the Roulette barn. The western-most limb continues to the house and domestic outbuildings, while the eastern-most limb once connected the property with the Kennedy and Neikirk properties to the north. Although still visible, the eastern-most section of the Roulette Lane, now a dirt road, is no longer being used for access. This road may have originally provided more direct access to Pry's Mill, (Howard Miller, conversation with author, 6 May 2003) where farmers could have their wheat ground into flour.

The only major change to the Sunken Road environs is the construction of a new tour road by the War Department, circa 1896 -1897, running parallel to the original Sunken Road. Its construction was likely prompted by concern over the adverse effects of traffic on the original Sunken Road, although the initial proposal called for lining the bottom of the original road bed with metal rather than the construction of a parallel road (Snell and Brown 1986, 96 -109). The

paved parallel road, which is known as Richardson Avenue, was moved farther to the south in 1966 by the National Park Service, probably due to similar concerns about adverse impacts on the original road bed (Antietam National Battlefield Archives, ANTI (P) 18 B 157 (1966)). Due to limited use, the original Sunken Road is now predominantly covered in grass.

Aside from the microenvironment constituting the Roulette Farmstead circulation patterns, the Town of Sharpsburg was the crossroads for several major thoroughfares that connected it with the Town of Boonsboro to the northeast, the City of Hagerstown to the north, and the towns of Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia) to the south and southwest respectively. Sunken Road connected Boonsboro Pike and Hagerstown Pike, albeit in a circuitous fashion. In addition to transportation networks provided by farm roads and turnpikes, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, completed in 1828 and located just to the west of Sharpsburg, provided farmers and merchants alike with an outlet for their products.

Overall, the circulation systems in and around Sharpsburg and the Roulette Farmstead specifically possess a high degree of integrity since their form and function has changed little since the Civil War. Although there are some post-war changes to the circulation systems, they do not detract from the integrity of the agricultural landscape, as they represent commemoration efforts designed to interpret the Battle of Antietam.

# **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Roulette Lane

Feature Identification Number: 101906

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 221123

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Lane
LCS Structure Number: ROULLANE

Feature: Bloody Lane

Feature Identification Number: 101727

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 008026

LCS Structure Name: Bloody Lane

LCS Structure Number: 064B

Feature: Richardson Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 101729

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 045119

# Roulette Farmstead Antietam National Battlefield

LCS Structure Name: Richardson Avenue

LCS Structure Number: RICH AVE

Feature: Old road trace

Feature Identification Number: 101728

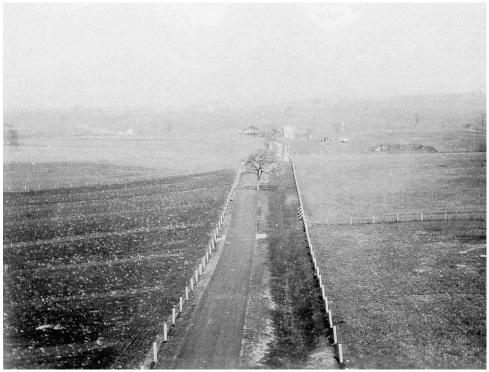
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100226

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Old Road Trace

LCS Structure Number: ROULRDTRACE

# **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View of Bloody Lane from the Observation Tower, circa 1900, showing adjacent paved Richardson Avenue in its original alignment. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



1966 photograph of realignment of Richardson Avenue, moving it farther away from its original location immediately adjacent to the Sunken Road. Reprinted from ANTI Archives, ANTI (P) 18 B 157 (1966).



Contemporary view of Bloody Lane from the Observation Tower, showing the re-aligned Richardson Avenue and parking area. Photography by author, May 2003.

# **Spatial Organization**

Several aspects of the farm plan on the Roulette Farmstead appear to reflect a southeastern Pennsylvania source area. Historically, there has been a strong correlation between the Hagerstown Valley and the Delaware and Susquehanna valleys in the type of husbandry practiced and the cultural dispositions of its residents. Indeed, the theme of diffusion of agricultural practices and material culture to western Maryland from the source area of the Mid-Atlantic culture hearth--southeastern Pennsylvania--is frequently discussed in this report.

As was the custom of early settlers, the farmstead was located near a source of water--in this case, a spring--in order to be in close proximity to that vital element. However, a more specific indicator of cultural diffusion is the orientation of the house and its arrangement in proximity to the agricultural buildings. Like many farmhouses in southeastern Pennsylvania, the Roulette house was placed facing downhill towards the sun (Glassie 2000, 116) in a southeasterly direction, (Glassie 1969, 34) and on the windward side of the barn and outbuildings (Long 1972, 11). In addition, the house and barn face one another with the outbuildings situated on the sides, forming a courtyard. This layout is aptly called the courtyard plan, (Glassie 1986, 413-414) although the grouping of Roulette buildings is more similar to what other scholars call the range plan, where domestic buildings are clustered around the house and agricultural buildings are situated closer to the barn (Lanier and Herman 1997, 225). Nevertheless, a tighter grouping between house and outbuildings likely existed originally, as the extant barn dates to at least half a century later than the earliest portion of the farmhouse, and an earlier barn may have been located closer to the farmhouse.

The configuration of the parcel on which the Roulette buildings are situated also speaks to regional patterns. The process of land division in place in Maryland was known as the metes and bounds survey system, in which a settler could select the best land available that no one else had claimed and proceed to obtain a warrant and subsequent patent (Hart 1998, 145-46). The metes and bounds system, otherwise known as the cadastral system, derived from England and involved a complicated method of describing physical objects such as rocks, trees, and metal posts that would serve as a property's boundaries. Thus, the rural landscape is marked by a patchwork of field patterns containing irregular borders (Rehder 1992, 100-01).

Moving away from the individual farmstead proper, the surrounding community was a cluster of individual farmsteads whose owners shared a common ethnicity and religious affiliation--in this case, the Brethren (Dunkers) (Swank 1983, 20). However, these patterns do not appear to be a result of initial settlement of the area, given that groups from the British Isles who belonged to a variety of faiths were present in the area before the wave of Germanic settlers arrived from Pennsylvania.

Due to the property's configuration changing little in over 150 years, plus the survival of the farmhouse and several key outbuildings, the Roulette Farmstead retains a high degree of integrity in its Spatial Organization. Remnants of historic fencing marking the boundaries of the

property still survive today, although this will be discussed under Small Scale Features later in this report.

# **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View of domestic outbuildings on the Roulette Farmstead. Photograph by author, May 2003.

## **Archeological Sites**

No archeological investigations have been conducted on the Roulette Farmstead in relation to prehistoric Native American sites. However, a site dating to the Battle of Antietam was discovered in 1988 by relic hunters, and an excavation was conducted by staff from the National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution. The site is located just north of the Observation Tower and consists of four graves of soldiers from the famed Irish Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. The soldiers, all of whom were Irish Catholics recruited from New York City by the brigade's commander, General Thomas F. Meagher, were killed during the Battle as they attacked Confederate positions along the Sunken Road. The excavation yielded a host of military accoutrements, but also unique artifacts such as several Roman Catholic Miraculous Medals and a crucifix with rosary beads. It is likely that the soldiers were hastily buried after the Battle, only to be disinterred and moved to the Antietam National Cemetery in Sharpsburg after the war. However, the task was not completed, since there were some skeletal remains in the graves that the Federal contractors missed when removing the bodies. The remains discovered during the excavation were reburied at the Antietam National Cemetery in 1989 after the excavation was completed (Potter and Owsley 2000, 57-69).

Archeology would undoubtedly prove useful for revealing information about the built environment of the Roulette Farmstead as well. Although not listed on the List of Classified Structures, a flat building pad with a stone foundation is located on the east side of the extant springhouse. Howard Miller, long-time resident of the property, stated that it originally served as the foundation for a blacksmith shop and was of frame construction. He stated that he moved this structure around 1960 and located it on another foundation that he constructed, but said that the structure was eventually torn down (Howard Miller, conversation with author, 3 September 2003). From examining photographs from the turn of the twentieth-century, it is apparent that another outbuilding was located immediately north of the springhouse (Antietam National Battlefield Archives). This rectangular structure was two stories in height with a gable roof and gable-end entrance, and was constructed of logs devoid of chinking. Although its use is not known, its appearance suggests its possible use as a corn crib. In fact, the structure may have served as the original barn on the property, as its form resembles a barn typology known as the single-crib barn. This barn form is found predominantly in Appalachia, and served mainly subsistence farms (Noble Vol. II 1984, 3) or farms that did not need to house stock indoors, as was the case with the Reynolds, who seem to have concentrated on their beef cattle operation. This barn form diffused to the Hagerstown Valley from southeastern Pennsylvania, where it was most likely introduced by Germanic settlers (Glassie "Old Barns" 1965, 21-22). It was not necessary to chink the walls of such structures, as the gaps served to increase ventilation to dry the corn stored inside. In a later photograph from the 1940s, the log walls were covered with vertical board siding and the building was re-oriented so that it faced east-west.

Another building that once existed on the property was situated across the farm lane from the barn; a nearly-level area devoid of significant vegetation suggests that this building was likely torn down in recent years. A war-time sketch made by war correspondent Frank Schell shows a building in this location, which appears to be a drive-through corn crib (Johnson and Buel Vol. 2 1887, 641). In addition, a post-war photograph shows a similar building in this location, although it is oriented in an east-west direction (Antietam National Battlefield Archives).

Yet another building that was located on the property was the A. Clipp house, located halfway up Roulette Lane on its western side. The house appears to be a 1 ½ story frame or log structure covered with weatherboards with a shed roof porch across the front elevation. A. Clipp may have been a tenant farmer or hired hand, as the land around the house does not appear to have ever been subdivided from the Roulette property. The house is present in a mural of the Battle painted by Captain James Hope, a Vermont infantryman who witnessed the Battle first-hand and sketched the events as they unfolded. In addition, the Carman-Cope maps depict the structure. Furthermore, it is mentioned in battle accounts and is visible in post-war photographs. Again, archeology may hold the key for revealing additional information about this building.

# **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Irish Brigade burial site

Feature Identification Number: 101718

# Roulette Farmstead Antietam National Battlefield

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Clipp House site

Feature Identification Number: 101716

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Corn crib site

Feature Identification Number: 101717

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Single-crib barn site

Feature Identification Number: 101719

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Blacksmith Shop foundation

Feature Identification Number: 101715

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

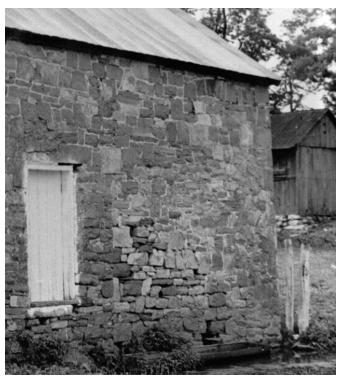
# **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View from the Observation Tower towards the Roulette Farmstead, circa 1906. Clipp House is visible to left of bank barn. Reprinted from Oliver T. Reilly, The Battlefield of Antietam (Hagerstown, MD: Hagerstown Bookbinding & Printing Co., 1906).



Circa late nineteenth/early twentieth-century photograph of log outbuilding, possibly a corn crib or single-crib barn, located immediately north of the springhouse. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



Circa 1940s view of the log outbuilding after it was re-oriented in an east-west direction and covered with vertical board siding. Reprinted from ANTI Archives, ANTI (P) 07 A 278.

# **Buildings And Structures**

A fine assemblage of historic buildings remains on the Roulette Farmstead, which is fortunate, given that the property was in private hands until the Park Service acquired it in 1998. When visiting the property in 1940, associate architect of the Historic American Buildings Survey Thomas T. Waterman remarked that the Roulette buildings were "unusual as a type and preserving its original features almost intact." He also noted that the buildings "are contemporary and in good repair" (Snell and Brown 1986, 201). Although some changes have been made to their materials since that time, the buildings still possess a high level of historic integrity in location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. The survival of a large percentage of outbuildings

that pre-date the Civil War is even more remarkable given the fact that the property has remained a working farm, which often leads to the removal of farm buildings that are not suitable for the needs of modern agribusiness.

It is likewise fortunate that several historic photographs exist of the Roulette buildings, since the property figured prominently in the Battle of Antietam. These photographs, along with deed and tax assessment information and numerous studies of regional vernacular architecture, enable us to gain a sense of the cultural traditions and specific dates of construction associated with each building.

Farmhouse

It appears that the farmhouse on the Roulette Farmstead was constructed in three different sections, although it is difficult to ascribe a building chronology for each. The southern section might likely be the earliest, as it is the only section that has four walls, indicating that it was constructed independently of the other two sections (National Register Nomination Update, 1999). The southern section is of frame construction, originally sheathed in weatherboards. Its floorplan consists of a hallway running the full length of the section, with two rooms of equal size situated to one side of it (on its southern elevation). Access to the rooms is gained through the hallway and through each other. The hallway is accessed from the outside by opposing front and rear doors. Essentially, the floor plan resembles the "two-thirds" Georgian plan as identified by noted material culture scholar Henry Glassie. Glassie notes that the two-thirds Georgian plan was merely a symmetrical central passage Georgian plan reduced by a third--a form that enjoyed particular popularity in southeastern Pennsylvania (Glassie 1986, 401-03. However, the façade of the Roulette farmhouse differs somewhat from the two-thirds Georgian plan typology since it is composed in a window-window-door-window arrangement. Thus, it more closely mirrors what noted cultural geographer Allen Noble calls a four-over-four house, which also can be frequently seen in the Delaware and Susquehanna valleys (Noble Vol. II 1984, 46-47). Another cultural geographer, Joseph Glass, mapped the prevalence of the four-over-four house type within the Pennsylvania Culture Region, and his statistics show that this particular form existed in high numbers in central and western Maryland and adjacent south-central Pennsylvania (Glass 1986,115-121). Both the two-thirds Georgian plan and the four-over-four plan probably point to a British Isles influence. The form of this section of the Roulette farmhouse differs from the aforementioned building typology, however, as it is 1 ½ stories in height rather than two, and has a front porch and an exterior-end stone chimney. Overall, its floor plan and architectural features suggests it may have been constructed by Joseph Reynolds soon after he inherited the property in 1784.

Attached to the southern section is the middle section of the house, which is constructed of limestone. Although sheathed in weatherboarding at a later date, the stone wall construction, apparently whitewashed, was still visible when the 14th Connecticut Regiment gathered outside the house for a group photo at a reunion held on the battlefield in 1891 (Antietam National Battlefield Archives). The 1862 Alexander Gardner photo taken after the Battle of Antietam shows this section's roofline is continuous with the southern section (Ibid, ANTI (P) 07 A 272 (1862)). Likely added by Joseph Reynolds in the fourth quarter of the eighteenth-century, the middle section may have been added after the initial frame section was built. As is frequently seen in the areas of British settlement in the Delaware Valley, additions were attached in a linear arrangement. Specifically, this arrangement recalls the vernacular farmhouses of Northern Ireland, which were expanded in length rather than depth, since wide roof timbers were not readily available (Pfeiffer and Shaffrey 1990, 17). Also visible in the Gardner photo is a shed roof appendage on the rear of the middle section. This space likely served as an extra bedroom, and was a feature seen on houses of British origin, where it is known as an outshut (Brunskill 1974, 59-62).

Although the roofline of the Roulette farmhouse is now continuous, the 1862 Gardner

photograph depicts the northern section as slightly lower than the other two sections (Frassanito 1978, 199). The photograph also shows the original log walls exposed on this section as well as the original stone bakeoven. The log construction (Glassie 1963, 5-6), the steeply pitched roof with flared eaves (Bucher 1962, 17), and the attached bakeoven (Glassie 1968, 41-42) are all clues that a person of Pennsylvania German ethnicity may have constructed this section. This section likely served as the kitchen or bakehouse, since its fenestration and form are similar to other Germanic buildings used for those purposes in southeastern Pennsylvania (Lay 1982, 16). Perhaps this section was constructed by John Miller after he acquired the property in 1804, since Miller was of Pennsylvania German lineage. It is not known when the front porch was added to the structure, although its recessed form with integral roof also suggests a southeastern Pennsylvania influence (Glassie 1968, 58-59). At some point in the building's history, the original logs were covered with stucco, and at a later date, with aluminum siding in various places. The practice of covering logs was common, not only to preserve the log walls, but also to give the appearance of prosperity, as logs were generally left exposed only on work buildings and the houses of less-affluent residents (Chappell 1986, 72).

In terms of integrity of materials, the original wall sheathing of the farmhouse has been covered over with aluminum siding and the original porch posts have been replaced. Furthermore, the original cedar shakes have been replaced by a standing seam metal roof. Nevertheless, the farmhouse is representative of a vernacular Mid-Atlantic farmhouse of various ethnic influences and construction techniques, and it retains a high degree of integrity in its location, design, setting, feeling, and association. Aside from the farmhouse's significance as an excellent example of early vernacular architecture in western Maryland, it has significance in military history for its involvement in the Battle of Antietam, during which the Roulette family chose to remain at home and took refuge in the cellar (Frassanito 1978, 197). They were later joined there by wounded soldiers of the 14th Connecticut and their chaplain (Priest 1989, 160).

# Springhouse/Cabin

Although at first glance this building appears to be a typical springhouse found on early farmsteads in western Maryland, upon further investigation it is apparent that the building was constructed in two stages. The southern section was constructed first, and may well be the oldest building on the property. In fact, it could be the dwelling mentioned in John Reynolds' will of 1784, which is described along with the adjacent spring (Washington County Will Books, Liber A, Folio 91). While it is difficult to ascertain whether Reynolds constructed the building or it was already standing when he acquired the property from William Anderson in 1761, its proportions, form, and construction methods all are indicative of a British Isles influence, which is in keeping with the ethnicity of both men. Specifically, its stone construction and lack of gable windows (Gailey 1984, 8), 1 ½ story height with loft to the attic, opposing front and rear doors, and interior gable end chimney are all typical features found in cabins in the British Isles (Glassie 1968, 48-53). This form was diffused to southeastern Pennsylvania and was carried to the backcountry of Maryland and Virginia by the English, Welsh, Anglo-Irish, and Scotch-Irish, also known as the Ulster Scots. The high quality stone masonry--characteristic of the work of masons from the British Isles (Glassie "Irish" 1986, 79)--is evident in the quoins located on the

corners of the building, and the keystone lintels that grace the door and window openings. The building originally had a stone chimney, which was replaced at some point by a brick chimney cap. However, this practice was common because of the need to frequently re-point the stonework due to heavy use.

John Miller likely added the northern section of the building in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, joining the two sections to form a two-room springhouse typical of Germanic springhouses found throughout the Pennsylvania Culture Region. The two sections were joined with such craftsmanship that the seam between them is visible only to the trained eye. Uniting the sections is a distinctive projecting roof on the building's western elevation, which is cantilevered and supported by an extended beam jutting out from the masonry wall (Glassie 1964, 22). Known as a "Vordach" (German for porch), this roof type is prevalent in Germanic buildings throughout southeastern Pennsylvania (LeVan 2004, 34-35) as well as western Maryland and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Its purpose was to provide an outdoor work space that offered protection during inclement weather (Ibid). The northern section was used to cool milk and dairy products, which is evident by its whitewashed walls and remains of crock racks attached to the walls. Whether the southern (original) section was used to house servants or slaves after it discontinued serving as the principal residence on the property is not known. However, it was likely later used for butchering and/or washing clothes and boiling soap because it possessed a fireplace. This segregation of work space was typical of large springhouses originally built as two-room structures (Long 1972, 12-14). Because the two-room springhouse was a common form among the Pennsylvania Germans, it makes the original cabin portion that much more difficult to detect. Immediately adjacent to the northern section of the building is a stone spring alcove with a vaulted brick arch built into an earthen berm to protect the springhead. The spring flows out of the arch, through the springhouse, and into the pond on the eastern side of the springhouse. The proximity of the original cabin to the spring undoubtedly made it feasible to expand the structure to two-rooms so that the spring would flow through the building. Constructing buildings over springs was indeed a frequent practice among the Pennsylvania Germans (LeVan, 4-5), particularly with springhouses (Long 1960, 40).

Both the springhouse and the vaulted spring alcove are mentioned in eyewitness accounts from the Battle of Antietam. The springhouse served as a refuge for Confederate sharpshooters until they were captured by members of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (Page 1906, 36), although another account states that the 130th Pennsylvania captured them (Bosbyshell 1906, 161-165). The spring was apparently used by soldiers, especially by the wounded, for refreshment during the Battle (Ibid). Other than corrugated metal roofing on the roof of the springhouse, both the springhouse and vaulted spring arch retain a high degree of integrity, and look as they did at the time of the Battle.

#### Smokehouse

The smokehouse likely dates to the first quarter of the nineteenth-century, and thus was probably constructed by John Miller. Its rectangular shape, log wall construction, limestone

foundation, and gable roof are typical features of smokehouses built during this period in the Upland South (Noble and Cleek 1995, 148). The walls on the inside of the smokehouse are black from years of continued use, and its location near the farmhouse is typical (Long 1972, 16). Overall, the smokehouse has a high degree of integrity in form, although its roof and sheathing are metal and of modern vintage. The log walls originally may have been left exposed, as was often the case with work buildings (Chappell 1986, 72), or may have been sheathed in wide vertical boards or board and batten.

#### Icehouse/Root Cellar

The original stone section of this building was likely constructed in the first quarter of the nineteenth-century by John Miller. Its gable roof with entrance in the gable end, stone construction, and banked setting suggests its use as an icehouse for preserving ice during the warm months, usually packed in sawdust for insulation. However, it may have been used as a root cellar because its depth is rather shallow for the effective preservation of ice. Root cellars were common features on Pennsylvania German farms, and were used for storing and preserving food. Like icehouses, root cellars were often of stone construction and were banked into a hillside (Long 1972, 22-23). A frame addition added to the north elevation of the building sometime in the last quarter of the nineteenth-century may have initially served as a wagon shed and later as a garage; the north wall of the root cellar/icehouse was demolished in order to provide more space. The corrugated roof on the wagon shed/garage portion of the building is a later addition, but does not detract from its overall high degree of integrity.

#### Barn

The large barn on the Roulette Farmstead was likely constructed by William Roulette during the mid nineteenth-century. Its projecting forebay (front of the barn) and banked siting (rear of the barn) is typical of barns in the region. The banked siting provided access to the upper level of the barn, which was used to process and store grain and hay. The lower level was used to shelter various kinds of livestock, which the projecting forebay protected during inclement weather (Ensminger 1992, 53-55). This bi-level arrangement saved considerable time in performing farm chores since it allowed feed to be thrown down to the stabling area from the upper level. The forebay allowed stable doors on the lower level to swing unobstructed when hay and straw was thrown into the barnyard from above (Glass 1972, 12-15).

Many scholars refer to forebay barns simply as the "Pennsylvania Barn", which is a form frequently encountered on the rural landscape of western and central Maryland, the adjacent Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and central and southeastern Pennsylvania. Although bank barns are known in both Germany and England, the cantilevered forebay, the most distinctive feature on the Pennsylvania Barn, most likely originated in Switzerland (Ensminger 1992, 10-17). The settlers from the British Isles probably adopted this feature from their Germanic neighbors in Pennsylvania and employed it on their bank barns. Thus, many barns in southeastern Pennsylvania represent the fusion of both Germanic and British traits, and these "hybrid" barns diffused southwestward to Maryland, Virginia, and beyond when settlers began leaving Pennsylvania for cheaper land in the Southern backcountry.

The Roulette barn represents a melding of British and Germanic building traits. Although the barn contains a forebay, it is supported for its entire length by a stone foundation rather than relying only on cantilevered beams to carry the weight. This closed forebay is seen frequently in areas of English settlement located at the fringe of German settlement (Ibid, 68-69), suggesting a shared building dialogue. Pure English bank barns usually employed pent roofs rather than forebays to protect the stabling area below (Ibid,10), and the closed forebay may represent an incorporation of the Germanic forebay into English building practices. Another feature that is often seen on "hybrid" Pennsylvania barns, particularly in the western Piedmont and Great Valley regions of Pennsylvania and Maryland, is the rear outshut, often referred to as an outshed. As previously discussed in relation to the farmhouse, this feature was used in England to provide additional space for a bedroom, and the concept was also applied to bank barns in England (Ibid, 97-98). Specifically, as agriculture moved from more of a subsistence operation to one with commercial implications, additional space was needed for grain storage which was provided with an outshed (Ibid, 109). Indeed, tightly fitting horizontal boards are still visible in the Roulette barn, indicating their use for grain storage.

The Roulette barn possesses a high degree of integrity, and includes the same type of vertical board siding that was sheathing the building during the Battle of Antietam, as sketched by combat artist Frank Schell. From the sketch, it appears that the barn was probably whitewashed (Johnson and Buel 1887, 641). Like many of the buildings on the Roulette Farmstead, the barn played a role in the Battle, as it was used as a field hospital (Bosbyshell 1906, 164-65). Although not dating to the Antebellum period, the drive-through corn crib attached to the north elevation was likely added in the third or fourth quarter of the nineteenth-century using earlier, recycled lumber from another structure. Attaching corn cribs to the gable ends of barns was a practice frequently employed on bank barns in central and western Maryland (Glassie 1966, 16). Another modification to the barn was the milking parlor that was added in 1956 (Howard Miller, conversation with author, 6 May 2003) in the area formerly constituting the forebay, a practice frequently employed in the dairy regions of southeastern Pennsylvania and central and western Maryland. Another modification, dating from 1967, is the loafing shed attached to the northeast elevation of the barn, which was initially used to shelter dairy cows. After dairying activity ceased on the property in 1966, it was used to store equipment (Ibid), a use that continues to the present.

#### Milkhouse; Silo

A concrete block milkhouse was constructed adjacent to the bank barn in 1956 and a poured concrete silo was added to the northwest elevation of the barn in 1958--modifications made by Howard and Virginia Miller when Washington County shifted from general farming to one of increased specialization in the dairy industry (Ibid). Although these structures were constructed less than fifty years ago and therefore outside the period of historic significance, they nevertheless serve as tangible evidence of the agricultural history of the County. It should be noted that these structures will turn fifty years of age in 2006 and 2008 respectively, at which time they should be evaluated for their historic significance as contributing buildings to the

agricultural landscape. In essence, it may be prudent to prepare an historic context study for dairy farming in western Maryland, in which case these buildings would likely be considered typical examples.

**Equipment Shed** 

Located to the northeast of the barn, a free-standing equipment shed with gable roof is a non-contributing building that dates to 1966 (Ibid).

## **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Farmhouse

Feature Identification Number: 101723

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 045273

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Farmhouse

LCS Structure Number: 120

Feature: Cabin/Springhouse

Feature Identification Number: 101721

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 045274

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Springhouse/Slave Quarter

LCS Structure Number: 121

Feature: Bank Barn

Feature Identification Number: 101720

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 045276

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Barn

LCS Structure Number: 123

Feature: Smokehouse

Feature Identification Number: 101726

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 010008

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Smokehouse

# Roulette Farmstead Antietam National Battlefield

LCS Structure Number: 122

Feature: Icehouse/Root Cellar

Feature Identification Number: 101724

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 010007

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Stone Outbuilding

LCS Structure Number: 124

Feature: Milkhouse; Silo

Feature Identification Number: 101725

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: Equipment Shed

Feature Identification Number: 101722

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

## **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



View of the Roulette springhouse, showing the seam between the original section to the left and the later addition. Photograph by author, May 2003.



View of eastern elevation (front) of Roulette farmhouse, showing linear arrangement of additions. Photograph by author, May 2003.



Alexander Gardner photograph of western elevation (rear) of the Roulette farmhouse immediately after the Battle. Log (northern section) with attached bakeoven is located on the left of the building. Reprinted from ANTI Archives, ANTI (P) 07 A 272 (1862).



View of bank barn, silo, and milkhouse on Roulette farmstead with barn outsheds clearly visible. Photograph by author, May 2003.



Sketch of Roulette Farm by Frank Schell. Note whitewashed buildings and corn crib located to right of barn. Reprinted from Robert U. Johnson and Clarence C. Buel, Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol. 2 (New York: The Century Company, 1887).

#### **Small Scale Features**

Numerous small scale features are present on the landscape of the Roulette Farmstead, which concern all three periods of historic significance. All of these features are the products of humans, as small scale features related to the natural environment are discussed under the Natural Systems and Features and Vegetation sections of this report.

#### Fences

Several fencing regimes exist on the Roulette Farmstead, reflecting the changing technology involved in fence construction. Fences not only enclosed livestock, but subdivided farm fields and demarcated boundaries with adjacent properties. Although English Common Law dictated that landowners failing to fence their land were responsible if their cattle damaged another farmer's crops, the situation was reversed in America. Here, roaming cattle took precedence, and if a landowner wanted his crops protected, he had to take the responsibility to fence them (Hart 1998, 170-71).

The earliest fences in America were usually constructed of the stones and brush that were cleared from fields, while the first permanent fences were constructed of wood in a zig-zag pattern known variously as the worm, snake, split-rail, or Virginia rail fence. Because the top rails of these fences were easily knocked off, they were later bolstered with a top rail secured by two posts driven into the ground aside the right angle formed by the existing interlocking rails

(Ibid, 171-72). This variant of the worm fence came to be known as the stake-and-rider (Meredith 1951, 139-40). Whereas stake-and-rider fences generally were used to enclose cattle and horses, worm fences were used to retain smaller farm animals such as sheep and pigs because the bottom rails lay closer to the ground. Nevertheless, farmers were generally of the opinion that both worm fences and stake-and-rider fences consumed a lot of land and wasted a considerable amount of timber (Long 1961, 32). Thus, in the Mid-Atlantic region encompassing central and southeastern Pennsylvania and central and western Maryland, they were eventually replaced by the post-and-rail fence, (Glassie 1968, 26-27) which required more labor to construct, but was more substantial and used less timber and land. Furthermore, weeds were easier to control since the fences were laid out in a straight line. Until the Chestnut Blight in the early twentieth-century, chestnut trees were the preferred choice of wood for the construction of rails, whereas locust was preferred for constructing the posts (Long 1961, 33-34).

Many of the types of wood fences constructed in America were known in Germany, (Lay 1982, 30) and may have been brought to Pennsylvania by German immigrants, who later carried these forms southward when they migrated to Maryland and beyond (Glassie "Pennsylvania Barn" 1965, 8). However, many early Germanic settlers were unfamiliar with fences, because the feudal system with which they were accustomed in the Rhineland did not necessitate the construction of fences since the land holdings were generally large in size (Long 1961, 30).

Stone was another material from which early fences were constructed. These fences were the by-product of land clearing, as they were piled up in walls when fields were prepared for cultivation. The nomenclature for fences constructed of stone varies--in New England, it is called a stone wall, whereas in the Mid-Atlantic, it is called a stone fence. In the Southern Appalachians, it is referred to as a rock fence (Meredith 1951, 135). Whatever the name applied, stone fences were durable, yet were often replaced by post-and-rail, then by wire fences, because of their high maintenance and replacement costs (Long 1961, 31-32). Despite the numerous outcroppings of limestone in the Mid-Atlantic region, stone fences were never as prevalent there when compared to those found in the glaciated regions of Upstate New York and New England (Zelinksy 1959, 20). In any case, stone fences, especially in the Mid-Atlantic, are often nothing more than heaps of stone used to divide fields or serve as boundary markers (Hart 1998, 182-83) rather than to restrain livestock. However, in some cases, a stake-and-rider was placed on top of a stone fence to increase its height (Meredith 1951, 140).

The Roulette Farmstead contains many types of fencing dating from different periods, though much of the historical fencing as it existed on the eve of the Battle of Antietam is now gone. No worm or stake-and-rider fencing survives, except for the stake-and-rider fencing constructed by the National Park Service on each side of Bloody Lane. It is difficult to ascertain whether or not this fencing accurately replicates that which existed on the eve of the Battle, as there are several conflicting pieces of information pertaining to the fencing along this hallowed stretch of land. A regimental history of the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry

references a "wall" on the north side of the Sunken Road (Roulette Farm boundary). Furthermore, a photograph taken several years after the Battle shows a stone fence running down the eastern side of the Roulette Lane and around to the north side of the Sunken Road along the boundary of the Roulette property (Page 1906, 32). However, a sketch made by war-time artist Frank Schell shows worm or stake-and-rider fencing along the Sunken Road and the eastern side of Roulette Lane (Time-Life Books 1996, 142). In addition, the Carman-Cope maps depict worm fencing as having existed along both sides of the lane.

In addition to the stone fence that still survives on the eastern side of Roulette Lane, which functions for much of its length as a retaining wall for the adjacent hill, at least two other dry-laid stone fences survive on the Roulette Farmstead. Although not labeled on the Carman-Cope Map or mentioned in battle accounts, a stone fence survives directly to the east of the Roulette Lane where it makes a sharp turn to the west and heads towards the farm complex. This fence, which runs in an east-west direction, still retains its original diagonal capping stones, although it is almost entirely obscured by vegetation. This wall likely predates the Civil War and was probably constructed when the stones were picked out of the fields before they were first cultivated. Another stone fence to the west divides the Roulette and Mumma properties, and likewise is obscured by vegetation. It was almost certainly constructed in 1784 when John Reynolds' property was divided between his two sons, Francis and Joseph, per instructions in his will. Although no longer surviving, a stone barnyard wall was located on the forebay side of the bank barn. Likely similar to the extant barnyard wall on the Mumma Farmstead, it was removed some years ago when the previous owners needed additional room for dairying (Howard Miller, conversation with author, 6 May 2003).

As previously mentioned, no original worm or stake-and-rider fencing survives on the property. From battle accounts, it appears that two worm or stake-and-rider fences dividing the Roulette fields east of the Roulette Lane were torn down by the Irish Brigade as they traversed the fields on their way towards the Sunken Road (Corby 1893, 372). This corresponds with the Carman-Cope maps and with a noted scholar of agricultural history who states that worm and stake-and-rider fences were often used to divide internal fields (Long 1961, 33). Today, no fencing survives between the Roulette lane and the eastern property line, except for the stone fence across from and directly in line with the barn previously mentioned.

Similarly, post-and-rail fencing has all but disappeared on the Roulette property, except for a few extant posts on the eastern property line. The Carman-Cope maps accurately depict this type of fencing as having existed at this location. For the majority of the property, wooden fences have been replaced with woven wire and/or barbed wire. Woven wire was first developed in the 1850s, although its use did not become widespread until the 1890s. Barbed wire was not developed until 1873. Both provided an inexpensive solution to fencing, although woven wire was generally needed to enclose sheep and hogs, while barbed wire sufficed for cattle and horses (Mather and Hart 1954, 202-210).

Woven wire fencing with wooden posts painted black and topped with cast iron ball ornaments

was the choice of fencing along Bloody Lane and other roads when the War Department started replacing old fencing on the Battlefield in the last decade of the nineteenth-century (Snell and Brown 1986, 110). None of the original wire fencing with iron ball ornaments survives along Bloody Lane, although a concrete post survives at the southwestern corner where Bloody Lane meets the Roulette lane. This evidently is a relic from the replacement fencing by the War Department in 1931, which was of woven wire, but had concrete instead of wooden posts (Ibid, 160). It is difficult to ascertain whether the woven wire fencing that now exists on the Roulette Farm is of 1930s vintage or more recent. This form of fencing evidently fell out of favor when the National Park Service took over administration of the Battlefield, as a 1934 report by Superintendent Beckenbaugh suggested removing the woven wire fencing and replacing it with the type of fencing that existed at the time of the Battle (Ibid, 176).

#### Retaining Walls and Ornamental Fencing

Several retaining walls exist on the Roulette Farm in addition to the one lining the eastern side of Roulette lane that was previously discussed. One stone retaining wall is located at the southern edge of the front yard, and wraps around at a right angle near the driveway as it passes in front of the barn. Another stone retaining wall is located at the northern edge of the front yard, near where the farm lane passes by the springhouse. Both stone retaining walls are dry-laid and almost certainly pre-date the Civil War. Essentially, they seem to serve a decorative function in addition to their practical purpose of controlling erosion on the hillside leading from the farm lane to the farmhouse.

Currently, the only fencing surrounding the front yard is woven wire fencing on the southern perimeter of the yard, and vertical board fencing on the northern perimeter, both of which are modern. A photograph taken just days after the Battle of Antietam reveals that whitewashed board fencing was located on the western edge of the yard, just behind the rear elevation of the farmhouse--the other elevations are not visible. This type of fencing is atypical, both for the location and time period. Generally, board fencing was employed in areas used to enclose livestock rather than as ornamental fencing surrounding the domestic landscape. Furthermore, board fencing was more widely used in the latter half of the nineteenth-century after the advent of dimension lumber and machine-made nails (Noble Vol. II 1984, 124-25).

Although the post-battle photograph of the Roulette yard taken by Alexander Gardner shows only the rear of the yard, several photographs from the turn of the twentieth-century provide views of the front yard. In these photographs, whitewashed picket fencing surrounds the entire front yard. Compared with the board fencing discussed in the preceding paragraph, picket fencing was more commonly employed as a form of enclosure for yards and gardens (Long 1961, 35). The Carman-Cope maps show several picket fences, referred to as paling fences, as existing in the front yard of the Roulette Farmstead at the time of the Battle. Picket fences were common in the latter half of the nineteenth-century, since they were relatively inexpensive to construct and repair (Martin 1887, 37).

Monuments

Given the historical significance of Bloody Lane, it is not surprising that several monuments are constructed along its length. Although currently outside the boundaries of the Roulette Farmstead, it is presumed that the property boundary of the Roulette Farmstead originally extended to the Sunken Road. A total of four monuments are situated on the north side of Bloody Lane, all of which are dedicated to Union regiments that saw action at the Battle of Antietam: Hexamer's Battery (New Jersey), dedicated on September 17, 1903 http://www.nps.gov/anti/monuments/Monuments.htm); 132nd Pennsylvania, dedicated on September 17, 1904 (Schildt 1991, 138-39); 2nd Delaware, dedicated on May 30, 1964 (Ibid, 42-44); and the Irish Brigade (63rd, 69th, and 88th New York and 29th Massachusetts), dedicated October 25, 1997 (http://www.nps.gov/anti/monuments/Monuments.htm). Although a detailed description of each individual monument is not warranted for this report, it should be noted that the period of significance for commemoration of the Battle of Antietam extends to the present. The 2nd Delaware and Irish Brigade monuments are not yet fifty years of age--the standard age for determining historic significance. Thus, the period of significance for commemoration is not easily defined and assigned to a particular period, but rather functions in a continuum.

In addition to the regimental monuments, a mortuary cannon was placed near the spot where Union Major General Israel B. Richardson, commander of the First Division of the Second Army Corps (Murfin 1965, 347), was mortally wounded. It was dedicated on October 15, 1897, and is among six placed to honor both Union and Confederate generals killed or mortally wounded at Antietam (http://www.nps.gov/anti/monuments/Monuments.htm).

Although obviously post-dating the Civil War, these monuments possess historical significance in their own right, as they commemorate an important chapter in American history. Several of these monuments are over one hundred years in age, and are a product of time when Civil War battlefield preservation and commemoration was gaining momentum, with the Federal government at the forefront.

#### Interpretive Devices

As with the monuments previously discussed, several interpretive devices survive on the Roulette Farm that were placed there during the War Department years when Antietam Battlefield was initially being preserved and interpreted. Easily the most visible of these devices is the stone observation tower, constructed in 1896 - 1897. The tower is sixty feet in height and fifteen feet square, with iron stairs providing access to the observation deck. Its purpose was to provide a commanding view of the Battlefield, and was constructed in lieu of two lower wooden observation towers that were initially proposed (Snell and Brown 1986, 97-110). Its location at the end of Bloody Lane in the southeastern corner of the Roulette Farm accomplishes its objective rather well, and survives with few alterations from its original design.

Near the base of the observation tower are located twelve cast iron markers that are painted black with white lettering. The purpose of the markers is to provide interpretive text for visitors seeking to understand troop movements as they unfolded during the Battle of Antietam.

Installed by the War Department by 1897 (Ibid, 107), the markers remain intact today. An additional cast iron marker is located at the southeastern corner where the Roulette Lane meets Bloody Lane. It is a simple sign on an iron post that reads "To the Roulette House." Its appearance has changed little since its erection circa 1897, except that it was once attached to a wooden fence post topped with a cast iron ball, which is apparent in a photograph pre-dating the erection of the 132nd Pennsylvania monument. Presumably, when this fencing regime was removed in 1931, the sign was moved farther down Roulette Lane where it was attached to the extant post.

## **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Stone wall along Roulette lane

Feature Identification Number: 105859

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100230

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Roulette Lane Wall

LCS Structure Number: W-59-H

Feature: Stone wall near barn

Feature Identification Number: 105861

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100232

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Stone Wall #3

LCS Structure Number: W-61-H

Feature: Stone wall along swale

Feature Identification Number: 105860

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100231

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Stone Wall #2

LCS Structure Number: W-60-H

Feature: Stone wall along Mumma Farmstead property boundary

Feature Identification Number: 101410

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 008095

LCS Structure Name: Mumma, Samuel, Property; Field Wall, Section 1

LCS Structure Number: W-02A-H

Feature: Northern section yard retaining wall

Feature Identification Number: 101928

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100227

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Retaining Wall #1

LCS Structure Number: W-56-H

Feature: Southern section yard retaining wall

Feature Identification Number: 101932

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100228

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Retaining Wall #2

LCS Structure Number: W-57-H

Feature: Eastern section yard retaining wall

Feature Identification Number: 101924

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100229

LCS Structure Name: Roulette Farm; Retaining Wall #3

LCS Structure Number: W-58-H

Feature: Stake-and-rider fencing along Bloody Lane

Feature Identification Number: 101933

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Post-and-rail fence posts along eastern property line

Feature Identification Number: 101930

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wire fencing in various places

Feature Identification Number: 105862

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Concrete fence post along Roulette Lane

Feature Identification Number: 101923

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: 132nd Pennsylvania Regiment Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101909

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 045023

LCS Structure Name: PA-132nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Monument

LCS Structure Number: 110

Feature: Hexamer's Battery (New Jersey) Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101925

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 008132

LCS Structure Name: NJ-Hexamer's NJ Battery Marker(3:30pm Pos.)2 of 2

LCS Structure Number: 112

Feature: 2nd Delaware Regiment Monument

Feature Identification Number: 101910

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 045024

LCS Structure Name: DE-2nd Delaware Volunteers Monument

LCS Structure Number: 047A

Feature: Irish Brigade Monument (63rd, 69th, 88th NY and 29th MA)

Feature Identification Number: 101926

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 100240

LCS Structure Name: Irish Brigade Monument

LCS Structure Number: IRISH

Feature: Observation Tower

Feature Identification Number: 101929

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

#### Roulette Farmstead

## Antietam National Battlefield

IDLCS Number: 008028

LCS Structure Name: Observation Tower

LCS Structure Number: 091

Feature: Roulette Lane Interpretive Sign

Feature Identification Number: 101931

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 048141

LCS Structure Name: War Department Locational Tablet No. 546

LCS Structure Number: TAB-546

Feature: Major General Israel B. Richardson Mortuary Cannon

Feature Identification Number: 101927

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 008186

LCS Structure Name: Richardson, Maj. General Israel B.; Cannon Marker

LCS Structure Number: 049

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 118 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101911

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047961

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 118

LCS Structure Number: TAB-118

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 119 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101912

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047962

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 119

LCS Structure Number: TAB-119

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 120 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101913

## Antietam National Battlefield

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047963

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 120

LCS Structure Number: TAB-120

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 121 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101914

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047964

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 121

LCS Structure Number: TAB-121

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 122 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101915

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047965

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 122

LCS Structure Number: TAB-122

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 301 (Confederate)

Feature Identification Number: 101916

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047968

LCS Structure Name: Confederate Tablet No. 301

LCS Structure Number: TAB-301

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 302 (Confederate)

Feature Identification Number: 101917

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047969

LCS Structure Name: Confederate Tablet No. 302

LCS Structure Number: TAB-302

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 351 (Confederate)

## Roulette Farmstead

## Antietam National Battlefield

Feature Identification Number: 101918

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 048018

LCS Structure Name: Confederate Tablet No. 351

LCS Structure Number: TAB-351

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 44 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101919

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047883

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 44

LCS Structure Number: TAB-44

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 45 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101920

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047884

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 45

LCS Structure Number: TAB-045

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 46 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101921

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047885

LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 46

LCS Structure Number: TAB-046

Feature: Cast Iron Interpretive Tablet No. 47 (Union)

Feature Identification Number: 101922

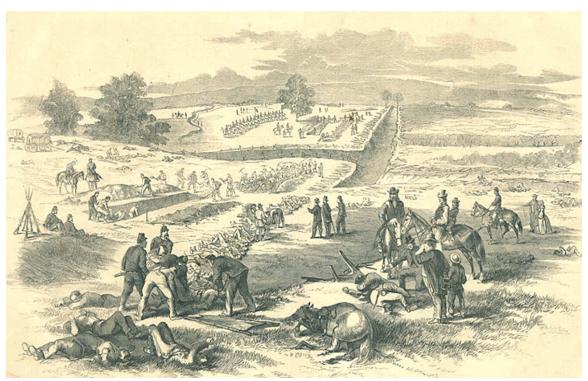
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 047886

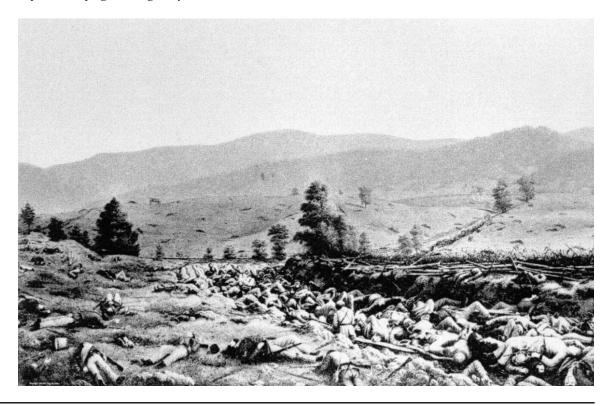
LCS Structure Name: Union Tablet No. 47

LCS Structure Number: TAB-047

## **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



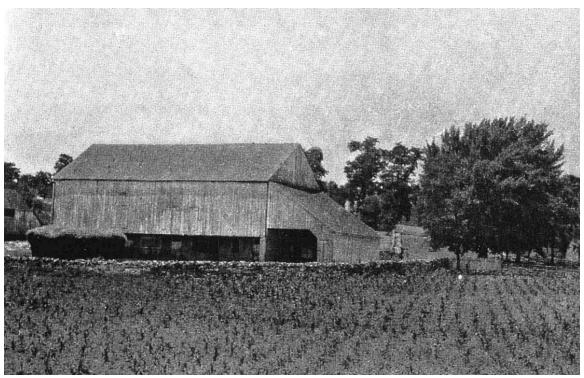
Frank Schell sketch of Bloody Lane, with Roulette Farmstead on left side of sketch. Note worm or stake-and-rider fencing depicted along Bloody Lane. Reprinted from http://www.nps.gov/anti/gallery.htm



Painting by James Hope depicting stake-and-rider fencing along Bloody Lane. Reprinted from http://www.nps.gov/anti/gallery.htm



Picket fence shown in front yard of Roulette farmhouse, circa 1900. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



Circa 1900 photograph of forebay barn on Roulette Farm, showing attached corn crib on north elevation and barnyard stone wall, which has since been removed. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



Photograph of stone wall lining the eastern side of Roulette Lane. Photograph by author, May 2003.



Late 1930s/early 1940s photograph of entrance to Roulette Lane, showing circa 1931 wire fencing with concrete posts topped with iron balls. Stone wall flanking the eastern side of Roulette Lane is clearly visible. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



Contemporary photograph of War Department-era sign to Roulette House. Photograph by author, May 2003.



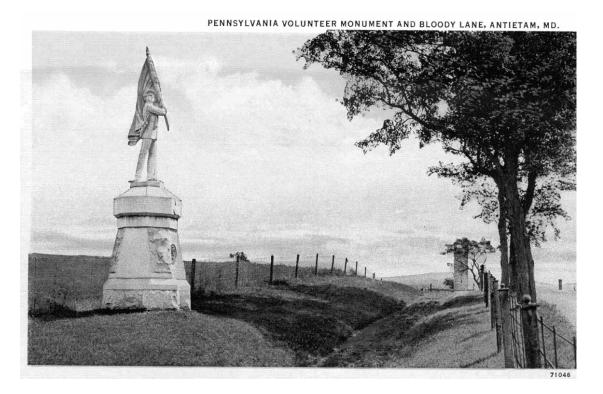
Pre 1896 photograph of Bloody Lane, prior to construction of the Observation Tower. Note original position of Roulette Lane sign and original War Department-era wooden fence posts painted black, topped with iron balls. Reprinted from ANTI Archives.



War Department-era cast iron interpretive markers at base of the Observation Tower. Photograph by author, May 2003.



132nd Pennsylvania Regiment Monument on north side of Bloody Lane. Photograph by author, May 2003.



## Roulette Farmstead



## **Condition**

### **Condition Assessment and Impacts**

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/01/2009

## **Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the most recent (2009) Condition Assessment.

The condition of the Roulette Farm cultural landscape has improved from Fair to Good. This change is due to the following improvements made since the last condition assessment (2003):

1) removal of the metal equipment shed, silo and milk parlor addition to barn 2) the entrance lane stone wall was rebuilt 3) the stone walkway along the area which was historically the garden was rebuilt 4) vegetation was cleared from field-stone walls 5) vegetation was cleared from the fence line that separates the Roulette and Mumma Farms 6) the springhouse was repointed 7) the smokehouse had a new wood-shingle roof installed and the log siding was exposed and whitewashed 8) the main house porches and barn roof were repainted 9) the barn foundation was repointed near the bank wall, 10) a culvert was installed to improve field drainage 11) trees were cleared at the entrance near Bloody Lane.

The impacts previously listed; Deferred Maintenance, Structural Deterioration and Vegetation/Invasive Plants no longer apply and have been deleted.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/25/2003

#### **Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

This determination results from a recent site visit, which conforms with a determination made during the List of Classified Structures survey.

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

## **Treatment**

## **Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined **Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:** 

Currently, there are no planning or construction documents related to the preservation of the historic buildings on the Roulette Farm.

## **Approved Treatment Costs**

## **Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:**

Treatment costs have not yet been calculated for preservation of the Roulette farmhouse or outbuildings.

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Year of Publication: 1982

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Year of Publication: 1993

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Year of Publication: 1997

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Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: Internet: http://www.nass.usda.gov/md/

Citation Author: Maryland Department of State Planning

Citation Title: Natural Soil Groups of Maryland.

Year of Publication: 1973

Citation Publisher: Baltimore: Maryland Department of State Planning

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Citation Title: A Geography of Pennsylvania.

**Year of Publication:** 1995

Citation Publisher: State College: Penn State Press

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Citation Title: Miller, Howard, conversations with author, 6 May 2003 and 3

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Year of Publication: 2003 Source Name: Other Citation Author: Murfin, James V.

**Citation Title:** The Gleam of Bayonets.

**Year of Publication:** 1965

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Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

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**Citation Title:** Pennsylvania Landscapes: A Geography of the Commonwealth.

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Year of Publication: 1995

Citation Publisher: New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Noble, Allen G.

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Citation Author: Page, Charles D.

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Year of Publication: 1980

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**Citation Title:** Antietam: The Soldier's Battle.

Year of Publication: 1989

**Citation Publisher:** Shippensburg, PA: White Mane Publishing Company, Inc.

**Citation Title:** Prince George's County, Maryland Patent Records.

Year of Publication: 0

Source Name: Other

**Citation Location:** Maryland State Archives, Annapolis

Citation Author: Rasmussen, Wayne D.

Citation Title: "The Impact of Technological Change on American Agriculture."

In The Journal of Economic History, Vol. 22, No. 4.

Year of Publication: 1962

Citation Publisher: New York: New York University

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Reed, Paula

Citation Title: Antietam National Battlefield National Register Update.

Year of Publication: 1999

Source Name: Other

**Citation Type:** Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: Antietam National Battlefield Archives

Citation Author: Rehder, John B.

Citation Title: "The Scotch-Irish and English in Appalachia." In To Build in a

New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America, ed. Allen G.

Noble.

**Year of Publication:** 1992

**Citation Publisher:** Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press

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Citation Author: Reilly, Oliver T.

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Year of Publication: 1906

Citation Publisher: Hagerstown, MD: Hagerstown Bookbinding & Printing Co.

Citation Author: Rouse, Parke

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Citation Author: Ruffner, Kevin Conley

Citation Title: Maryland's Blue & Gray: A Border State's Union and Confederate

Junior Officer Corps.

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Citation Publisher: Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts

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Citation Author: Schooley, Patricia

**Citation Title:** Architectural and Historic Treasures of Washington County,

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Year of Publication: 2002

**Citation Publisher:** Keedysville, MD: Washington County Historical Trust

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**Citation Title:** Regional Geomorphology of the United States.

**Year of Publication:** 1965

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Year of Publication: 1996

Citation Publisher: Richmond, VA: Time-Life Books

Citation Author: U. S. Bureau of the Census

Citation Title: Agricultural Schedules for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, Sharpsburg

District, Washington County, Maryland.

Year of Publication: 0

Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: U. S. National Archives & Records Administration, Washington,

DC

Citation Author: U. S. Bureau of the Census

**Citation Title:** Population Census for 1860, 1880, Sharpsburg District, Washington

County, Maryland.

Year of Publication: 0

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: U. S. National Archives & Records Administration, Washington,

DC

Citation Author: U. S. Department of Agriculture

**Citation Title:** Soil Survey of Washington County, Maryland.

**Year of Publication:** 1962

Citation Publisher: Washington, DC: U. S. Government Printing Office

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Citation Author: Walsh, Richard, and William Lloyd Fox

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**Year of Publication:** 1974

Citation Publisher: Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Title: Washington County, Maryland Land Records.

Year of Publication: 0

Source Name: Other

**Citation Location:** Washington County, Maryland Clerk of the Circuit Court

Citation Title: Washington County, Maryland Patent Records.

Year of Publication: 0

Source Name: Other

**Citation Location:** Maryland State Archives, Annapolis

Citation Author: Washington County, Maryland Soil Conservation District

Citation Title: Soil Conservation Plan - Miller Farm

Year of Publication: 1996
Source Name: Other

Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

**Citation Location:** Washington County Soil Conservation District, Hagerstown,

Maryland

Citation Title: Washington County, Maryland Will Books.

Year of Publication: 0

Source Name: Other

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Citation Author: Williams, Thomas J. C.

Citation Title: A History of Washington County, Maryland, Vols. I & II.

Year of Publication: 1906

Citation Publisher: Chambersburg, PA: J. M. Runk & L. R. Titsworth

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

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Geography, Vol. 8, No. 3.

Year of Publication: 1959

Citation Publisher: Sante Fe: The Rydal Press, Inc.

Source Name: Other

## **Supplemental Information**

**Title:** Roulette Farmstead Chain of Title

**Description:** Part of eight major land grants: Smith's Purchase (1747), Anderson's Delight (1748),

Abston's Forrest (1758), Resurvey on Elzwick's Dwelling (1761), Addition to Smith's Purchase (1763), John's Chance (1764)\*, Joe's Lot (1770), and Joe's Farm (1789).

\*John's Chance does not appear to be a land patent issued by the Land Office, but rather a piece of land formed out of parts of several previously patented land grants.

Joe's Farm and Joe's Lot:

9/3/1998 – Howard Miller and Virginia Miller to U. S. Government (fee simple); 179.5 +/- acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 1437, Folio 210.

12/4/1986 – Howard Miller and Virginia Miller to U.S. Government (scenic easement); 179.5 +/- acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 828, Folio 696.

6/15/1956 – S. Patterson Roulette and Leoda Roulette to Howard and Virginia Miller; 179.5 +/- acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 311, Folio 631.

3/13/1947 – Ellsworth Roulette, Trustee, to S. Patterson Roulette and Leoda Roulette; 179.5 +/- acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 240, Folio 294.

3/13/1947 – Elizabeth Roulette (widow of Benjamin, who died intestate), William Roulette, Mary Roulette Snyder and Walter Synder, S. Patterson Roulette and Leoda Roulette to Ellsworth Roulette, Trustee; 179.5 +/- acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 240, Folio 293.

12/20/1901 – Charles Biggs, Attorney in Fact for heirs of William Roulette (who died intestate): Joseph Roulette and Catherine Roulette, Annie Roulette Rudy and Reuben Rudy, John Roulette and Anna Roulette, Benjamin Roulette and Elizabeth Roulette (second wife), Rebecca Roulette Santee and Charles Santee, Ulysses Roulette and Lela Roulette to Benjamin Roulette; 179.5 +/- acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 115, Folio 320.

5/6/1869 – Daniel Mumma to William Roulette, ¼ acre; Washington County Land Records, Liber W McKK No. 1, Folio 491.

5/3/1853 – David Miller (son of John Miller 3rd, brother of John Miller 4th, and

half-brother of Margaret Ann Miller Roulette) and Daniel Schnebly, Trustees, to William Roulette (per Court of Equity, Docket Number 1092; lawsuit between David Miller, defendant, and Henry Neikirk); 179 3/8 acres, being part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 7, Folio 653.

12/5/1851 – Ann Miller (widow of John Miller 4th) to William Roulette (husband of Margaret Ann Miller Roulette); 179 ¼ acres, part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber 6, Folio 394.

11/3/1821 – Heirs of John Miller (3rd) (Daniel Miller, Jacob Miller, David Miller, Abraham Miller, Samuel Miller, Mary Miller Hershey and husband Christian Hershey, Elizabeth Miller Sutton and husband John Sutton, and Peter Miller) to John Miller (4th); 179 ¼ acres, part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber FF, Folio 443.

12/3/1804 – Joseph Reynolds to John Miller (3rd); 262 acres, part of "Joe's Farm" and "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber P, Folio 916.

1789 – Land Office to Joseph Reynolds; 240 ¼ acres, patent for "Joe's Farm"; Washington County Patent Record IC No. D, Folio 667.

11/24/1789 – James Vardee (Verdier) to Joseph Reynolds; 51 acres, part of "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber F, Folio 459.

3/17/1785 – Joseph Chapline to Joseph Reynolds; 45 acres, part of "Joe's Lot"; Washington County Land Records, Liber D, Folio 168.

10/28/1771 – William Williams Chapline to James Verdier, 51 acres, part of "Joe's Lot"; Frederick County Land Records, Liber O, Folio 601.

1770 – Land Office to Joseph Chaplain (Chapline); 2,127 acres, patent for "Joe's Lot"; Frederick County Patent Record BC and GS, No. 39, Folio 180 (Joseph Chapline evidently received the patent for Joe's Lot after he had already begun conveying parcels off of it).

10/6/1764 – Joseph Chapline to William Williams Chapline; 51 acres, part of "Joe's Lot"; Frederick County Land Records, Liber J, Folio 840.

## Anderson's Delight:

4/13/1784 – John Reynolds to Joseph Reynolds; ½ of estate, including part of Anderson's Delight; Washington County Will Books, Liber A, Folio 91.

7/1/1761 - William Anderson to John Reynolds; 212 acres, all of "Anderson's

Delight"; Frederick County Land Records, Liber G, Folio 83.

11/26/1751 – Thomas Cresap to William Anderson; 212 acres, all of "Anderson's Delight"; Frederick County Land Records, Liber B, Folio 494.

1748 – Land Office to Thomas Cresap; 212 acres, patent for "Anderson's Delight"; Prince George's County Patent Record TI, No. 3, Folio 270.

Resurvey on Elzwick's Dwelling, Smith's Purchase, Addition to Smith's Purchase, John's Chance:

4/13/1784 – John Reynolds to Joseph Reynolds; ½ of estate, including parts of Resurvey on Elzwick's Dwelling, Smith's Purchase, Addition to Smith's Purchase, and John's Chance; Washington County Will Books, Liber A, Folio 91.

8/22/1764 – Joseph Smith to John Reynolds; 138 acres, part of "Resurvey on Elzwick' s Dwelling", Smith's Purchase", "Addition to Smith's Purchase", and "John's Chance"; Frederick County Land Records, Liber J, Folio 715 (John's Chance probably named after John Reynolds and not likely a patented land grant, but instead, a parcel formed out of portions of the other land grants).

1763 – Land Office to Joseph Smith; 27 acres, patent for "Addition to Smith's Purchase"; Frederick County Patent Record BC and GS, No. 31, Folio 167.

1761 – Land Office to Joseph Smith; 574 acres, patent for "Resurvey on Elzwick's Dwelling"; Frederick County Patent Record BC and GS, No. 20, Folio 136.

1747 – Land Office to Joseph Smith; 63 acres, patent for "Smith's Purchase", Prince George's County Patent Record TI, No. 4, Folio 216.

## Abston's Forrest:

4/13/1784 – John Reynolds to Joseph Reynolds; ½ of estate, including a part of Abston's Forrest; Washington County Will Books, Liber A, Folio 91.

5/11/1765 – Joseph Chapline to John Reynolds; 35 acres, part of "Abston's Forrest"; Frederick County Land Records, Liber J, Folio 1156.

1758 – Land Office to Joseph Chapline; 675 acres, patent for "Abston's Forrest"; Frederick County Patent Record BC and GS, No. 10, Folio 583.